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October, 2022
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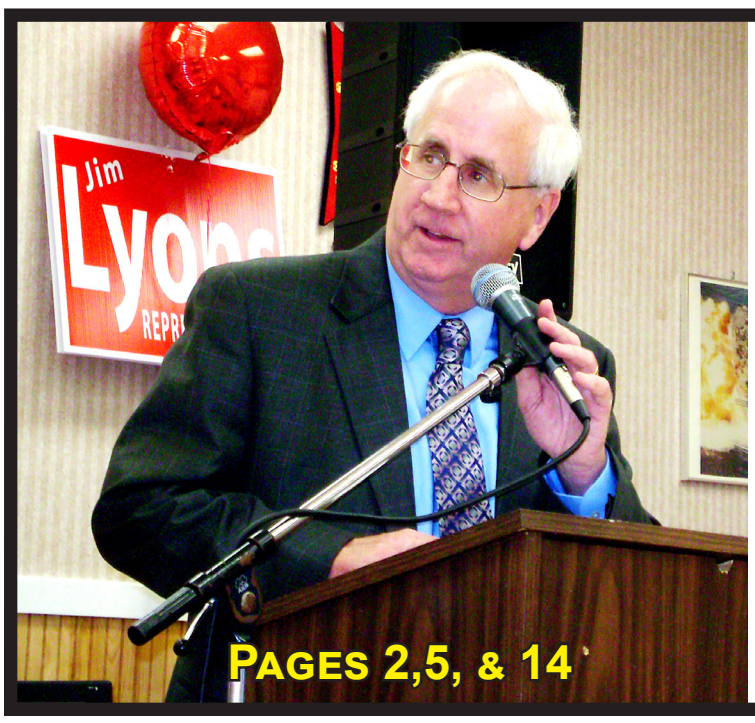
Voters to Decide Licenses for Illegals



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Jim Lyons, head of the Massachusetts Republican Party got more than 91,000 signatures to get Question #4 on the ballot.

The question allows voters to decide if illegal aliens should be given the privilege of a MA Drivers License.

Will the ballot question help Republicans win on November 8th?

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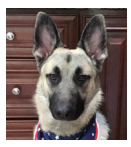

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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

Sal DeFranco, US Navy SEAL & Small Business Owner

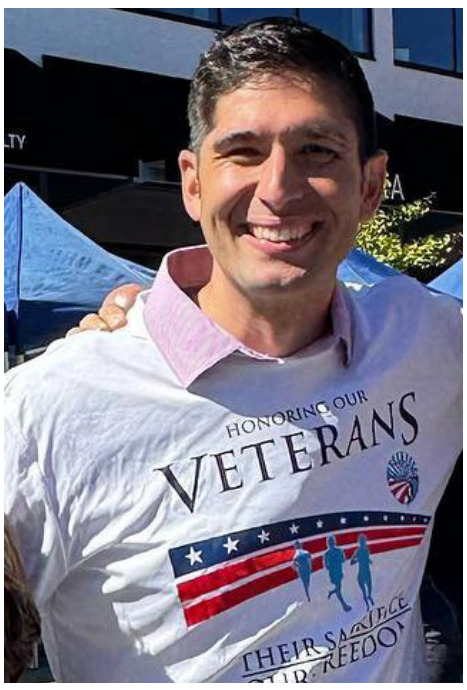
John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

HAVERHILL - Natives of Massachusetts, Sal DeFranco and his wife Dana own Battle Grounds Coffee Company, an award-winning roasting and café operation located in Haverhill, Newburyport, and Methuen. Battle Grounds Coffee was built on a foundation of service. Whether that manifested in providing clothing for veterans, supplies for students, or a meeting place for local organizations, Sal and Dana built Battle Grounds to be a resource for their communities. If I learned one thing through our conversation, it was this. Sal DeFranco was born to serve. I met Sal this week and discussed his love for service, our nation, the SEAL teams, and his wife, Dana.

Sal credits the man he is today with his atypical upbringing. "Being raised by a single parent taught me the meaning of sacrifice. You hear that word a lot, but it is rare to see it manifest in its purest form, a mother giving up so much so that her children might have a shot." Sal continued, "I don't think we had a car until I was in middle school. I can remember my mother using a backpack to carry our dirty clothes to the laundry mat. She would use a bike to get back and forth. We would take the train into Boston, where she was taking night classes at UMASS. I am incredibly grateful to have had these experiences. You can't teach mental toughness; it is something forged from experience."

Sal would draw on this mental toughness and credit his upbringing when he went through the most challenging military program on the planet, BUD/S, or Basic Underwater Demolition SEAL Training. "I can remember, vividly, being awake for nearly four days, soaking wet, covered in sand, standing with my boat crew as we held a 450-pound log over our heads, thinking to myself, I feel like I have been here before."

Sal told me he had always wanted to be a Navy SEAL and that the events of 9/11 only strengthened his resolve. "The SEAL teams are the best special operations unit in the world. If I want to serve my country, doing it with the best unit is the way I can maximize my usefulness for my country." Sal believes that the team's success and mission come before all else. "What makes the SEAL teams so powerful is, obviously, the training and caliber of the



warrior, but also the shared understanding that the success of the mission and life of your teammates come before all else, even your own personal safety."

While serving as a US Navy SEAL, Sal was the platoon communicator and integral to the mission planning process. During his active service, Sal deployed to Ramadi, Iraq, with SEAL Team Three and would later serve as a maritime operations instructor, training fellow Navy SEALs. In 2008, while in the Navy, Sal was struck by a car in a hit-and-run accident in which he sustained a life-threatening traumatic brain injury. He spent three weeks in a coma and would lose his senses of smell and taste

HERO: PAGE 21

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Vote No On Question 4, No One is Above the Law!

In their infinite lack of wisdom and common sense, The Massachusetts legislature has voted to give drivers licenses to illegal aliens.

The bill they passed also had language in it stating that illegal aliens will also have a right to receive education and health services as well as other government benefits.

We all know who's going to pay for all that, we are.

At a time when a record number of veterans and average American citizens are sleeping in the streets, our state leaders ignored their needs and decided to spend millions of tax-payer dollars on people who broke our laws to come here, and break our laws to illegally work here; (either under the table or by using a stolen social security number).

The legislature did all this without ever asking the voters of Massachusetts what you wanted. Their arrogance is staggering.

Enter former Andover State Rep. and head of the Massachusetts Republican Party Jim Lyons. Lyons and his supporters took on a monumental effort to get Question #4 on the November 8th state ballot.

A "yes" vote means you favor giving drivers licenses and other government benefits to illegal aliens.

A "no" vote means you do not favor giving drivers licenses and other government benefits to illegal aliens.

We believe that voting "NO" on Question 4 is the most responsible thing to do for our state.

First of all, the reasons given by the legislators who pushed this through ring hollow.

Legislators said this was needed because "if they don't have a license, they are just going to drive anyway."

That's like saying we should mandate banks disable their security systems because bank robbers are just going to rob banks anyways.

Secondly, the legislatures actions, like all legislative action, is only the first step in a long list of incremental benefits they plan on bestowing to illegal aliens.

If Question 4 passes we all know that within a year the legislature will be "amending" the bill to expand all kinds of additional rights to illegals, rights that are only supposed to be bestowed upon American citizens.

Otherwise, what's the point of citizenship?

We fully understand that there are good points made by those in favor of illegals getting licenses. For one, police chiefs across the state say it will make their jobs easier because officers will know who they are pulling over when making motor vehicle stops.

The drawbacks of giving licenses to illegals, however, far outweigh whatever good this ballot question will do.

Giving licenses to people who did not legally enter this country gives legitimacy to whatever fake identity any illegal chooses to give the state.

Sure, the bill says they have to have identification documents to get a state license, but the actual documents required are so easy to counterfeit, a 3rd grader could do it with a laser printer from Staples.

And they know that. That's the point!

We are not against immigration. We believe our government should make it easier for people who want to come to this country legally and even increase the number of people allowed to come here legally each year. We hold nothing against anyone who wants to come to this country, legally or illegally.

We simply believe that the immigration laws of our country should be enforced, not rendered meaningless by government officials who have no respect for our constitution.

Our immigration system is not broken, it's been sabotaged.

Voting NO on Question #4 is a good way to start reversing that. ◊

Some Tax Relief on the Way for MA Taxpayers

Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

While we still must pass an economic development package this session, the State Auditor has officially certified last year's state tax revenues and confirmed that $2.941 billion will be refunded to taxpayers per state law since revenues were exceedingly high.

The Baker Administration is responsible for distributing the refunds to taxpayers and has announced that starting in November, checks will be automatically sent to taxpayers via mail or direct deposit.

Each eligible taxpayer is expected to receive a payment roughly equal to 13% of their 2021 personal income tax liability. The final percentage will be determined in late October, after all 2021 tax returns are filed.

For FAQs and a refund estimator, visit mass.gov/62frefunds. A call center is also available to answer questions at 877-677-9727 and will be open Monday through Friday, 9AM-4PM.

These refunds will provide some critical financial relief for residents – but we must do more. It is most disappointing that legislative leaders could not produce a final economic development bill by the end of formal sessions in July.

This bill would have provided support for so many residents, small businesses, and industries that are struggling right now.

This bill would provide even more tax relief for residents by permanently increasing the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit, Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit, and rental deduction, and by reforming the estate tax.

It would also provide significant investments in community hospitals, housing, workforce supports, small businesses, food security, and more.

In the Merrimack Valley, we need immediate support contained in this bill for Lawrence General Hospital and many other important institutions that we rely on for critical services.

Methuen State Representative Linda Dean Campbell with Massachusetts Lt. Governor Karyn Polito

Legislative leaders and Governor Baker must find a way to bring a final economic development bill to the floor for a vote in the coming months.

It is what residents and our communities deserve.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature. She serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Advanced IT, the Internet and Cybersecurity. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2676. ◊

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THE VALLEY PATRIOT 19th ANNIVERSARY BASH!

We are proud to announce that the Valley Patriot's 19th Anniversary BASH will be held on Friday, March 31st at the Firefighters Relief In, 1 Market Street in Lawrence. Last year we gave out over $42,000 in scholarship money for local students graduating high school. If anyone is interested in helping us run the event or want to make a donation (100% goes directly to the student) you can email me at valleypatriot@aol.com

REPUBLICANS FOR DIZOGLIO!

Methuen's own democrat Diana DiZgolio won a stunning upset victory for State Auditor over the Democratic Party's hand-picked candidate, Chris Dempsey last month. She now faces republican Anthony Amore in the November 8th final election and she's getting some unexpected help from republicans. The Dracut republican town committee (as well as several others) have refused to endorse Amore saying his endorsement by Charlie Baker was the reason. While we understand many republicans hate Charlie Baker for not being "pure enough" of a conservative, our sources in the state GOP say that Baker's endorsement is not really the reason many republican leaders in the state are refusing to endorse Amore. One source in the Massachusetts GOP told The Valley Patriot that they love Diana DiZoglio and while they can't endorse her because she's a democrat, "the one thing we can do to help Diana is to not support her opponent. The leadership of the Democratic Party is terrified of DiZoglio if she wins because she's on to the corruption on Beacon Hill, and they don't own her. They know that if she wins, she's going after the payoffs and the non-disclosure agreements covered up by the leaders in her party." ◊

NH BALLOT QUESIONS

There are two ballot questions in New Hampshire on the November 8th ballot. Question #1 asks voters to call a constitutional convention. This would allow lawmakers to open up the state's constitution and make changes. The question does not specify what changes they want to make. This makes someone like me skeptical. Will they open the constitutional convention and implement a constitutional sales tax? Mandate transgender education for 2nd graders? Who knows? And that's the point. We don't know what they want to do and what they will do if they open up the states constitution. If I lived in NH I would be voting no!

Question #2 is to eliminate the Registrar of Probate. I say any time we can eliminate an administrative government job it's a good thing. I'd be voting YES on Question #2.

FRED DOUCETTE IN SALEM, NH

It's hard to find anyone as dedicated to the State of New Hampshire than Salem State Rep.

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

EXCLUSIVE DEBATE!

GEORGE BOAG VS. COLLEEN GARRY

STATE REP. CANDIDATES FOR DRACUT & TYNGSBORO

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Barry Finegold wants illegal aliens to come here in record numbers ... that is, until they show up in Andover!

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SAVE MONEY, DEFEAT BARRY FINEGOLD!

State Senator Barry Finegold may be the easiest going person you will ever meet, but as a senator it's time for Barry to stop collecting two paychecks. First, Finegold is never in the state house working for the people of Massachusetts. He's at his private law office every day in Andover making money while he's also collecting a check from you, the taxpayers. Secondly, the only time we ever see or hear from Barry Finegold is at election time when he miraculously begins to appear at ribbon cuttings and press conferences. Only to disappear again until the next election. Third, being a nice guy (which he is) does not excuse the fact that Barry has never seen a tax he didn't like, refuses to be transparent with the press, supports government benefits for illegal aliens, but has done nothing for American citizens living in the streets of his own district (like Lawrence). He helped to drive up home-heating prices with his support of "green energy" schemes, was the recipient of illegal campaign contributions by a former Lawrence Superintendent (who went to jail for printing Finegold's campaign material on school department computers.) Barry supported (former) Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua's $35M bailout loan to cover up city hall mismanagement, saying police and fire would be laid off without it ... only to have Lantigua layoff cops and firefighters anyway after getting the loan. Barry never demanded accountability for that loan he voted for.

But, then again, Barry never demands accountability for any money spent on the drunken sailors on Beacon Hill. So far, Barry Finegold has gotten reelected over and over because he is a nice guy who isn't controversial and does what his party tells him to do. This year Barry's district has changed, and for the first time he has a formidable challenger in moderate republican Sal DeFranco. Just think of it, if Barry loses to DeFranco on November 8th, we get a Senator who will actually do the job. But don't feel bad for Barry, it won't change his day-to-day schedule even a little. He will get to keep doing what he truly loves, working in his Andover law office every day. He just won't be getting a government check to do it.

CANDIDATES WHO SUPPORT ILLEGAL ALIENS & DEFUNDING POLICE

It's truly disgraceful that any American would want more violence in this country but there are a slate of candidates on the Massachusetts and New Hampshire ballots who are in favor of open borders, giving licenses and other government benefits to illegal aliens, and at the same time want to defund police in poor minority neighborhoods. Here's a partial list:

* Maura Healey candidate for MA Governor,
* Maggie Hassan N.H. candidate for U.S. Senate,
* Andrea Campbell, candidate for MA Attorney General (the AG is in charge of the state police)
* Adrianne Ramos, candidate for State Rep. in the North Andover, Boxford, of MA
* Barry Finegold, MA State Senator in Andover
* Tram Nguyen - State Rep. in Andover, MA
* Chris Pappas - Congress in NH
* Kristen Kassner - candidate for state rep. in the Georgetown, Groveland area of Massachusetts
* Andy Vargas, State Rep. in Haverhill, MA
* Kim Driscoll, candidate for MA Lieutenant Governor
* Lori Trahan - Congress in MA
* Seth Moulton - Congress in MA
* Teresa English - Candidate for State Rep. in Billerica, MA
* Ann Kuster – Congress in NH

THE RACISTS AT MARTHA'S VINEYARD

It's really incredible that the all-white community of Martha's Vineyard has signs all over their little town saying, "No person is illegal" and "We are a Sanctuary City." Yet, when 50 illegal aliens showed up in their community, they were quickly

deported from the island and taken into custody by the MILITARY. They were then transported to a MILITARY base for free housing, food, clothing, and other amenities.

The media is trying to distract you with stories that the Florida governor may have broken some law by sending illegal aliens to Martha's Vineyard. Instead of investigating the governor of Florida, why isn't the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department investigating the white supremacists on Martha's Vineyard who want to pretend they care about illegal aliens until those brown faces actually showed up in their town? Liberals on Martha's Vineyard have been saying for the last four years that "nobody is above the law, not even the president of the United States." Yet, they support illegal aliens coming to the country against our laws, then break our civil rights laws by rejecting people based on the color of their skin and nation of origin. This is just more proof of the rampant left-wing racism plaguing this country. Racism is racism regardless of the political views of the perpetrators or the victims.

*** EVENTS ***

OLDIES/DOO-WOP PERFORM IN BILLERICA

The Billerica Lion's Charities Fall Fling Featuring "The Reminisants" New England's Fabulous Oldies/Doo-Wop Group performing hits from the 50s and 60s on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at The Billerica Elks Hall on 14 Webb Brook Road in Billerica. Doors open at 1PM The Reminisants Perform from 2-5PM

Tickets are $25 per person. Contact Tony Cucchi @ 978-618-7462, acucchi10@gmail.com. Make checks payable to Billerica Lions Charities. All proceeds support Billerica Lions Charities! Please bring your own food/snacks. Cash only bar – no outside beverages allowed – including bottled water!

DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

The City of Lawrence, together with the Lawrence Commission on Disability, invites you to celebrate Disability Month, where we're bringing together the disability community for networking and enlightening discussion of what services are available for people with disabilities. In this Meet and Greet, Mayor Brian A. De Peña and ADA Coordinator Richard Rodriguez would recognize and thank those service providers for their contributions in servicing the disabled. When: October 20, 2022, Where: Lawrence Senior Center 155 Haverhill Street Lawrence, MA 01841 Time: 3PM to 5PM For more information about this event contact Richard Rodriguez, Lawrence ADA Coordinator Email Richard.rodriguez@cityoflawrence.com Tel: 978-620-3312. Warmest Regards Richard Rodriguez, ESQ ADA Coordinator for the City of Lawrence

METHUEN - St. LUCY'S CRAFT FAIR - 254 Merrimack St. To be held on Saturday, October 22nd, from 9AM to 3PM. Sponsored by the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality. Bake Sale, Lunch, Raffles and over 30 vendors.

AMESBURY HOSTS 'FRIDAY NIGHT FRIGHTS' FREE MOVIES IN OCTOBER

AMESBURY – The Amesbury Chamber of Commerce announced with its partners at Newburyport Bank and Coastal Connections that they are bringing back their Friday Night Frights program for October 2022, with a free outdoor movie planned for each of the Friday nights in October.

The weekly movies will feature a selection of Halloween-themed showings at Heritage Park on Water St, also known as the Lower Millyard.

"We had almost 200 people participate in an online poll to pick this season's movies," explained Christine Doucette, AVP Business Development Officer at Newburyport Bank's Friend Street branch. "I think people will really enjoy it!"

This season's schedule includes Hocus Pocus on October 7th, Beetlejuice on October 14th, Coco on October 21st, and Ghostbusters Afterlife on October 28th.

"We love events like this, and especially loved that this is one where we got to involve such a big part of our Coastal Connection community," said Sheila Skane, CFO for Coastal Connections, who noted the event happens just a few dozen yards from their Water St. office. "We're so excited to have it coming back."

"Since the movies play at dusk on Fridays, we hope people will consider swinging by restaurants and ordering take-out on their way to the movies," said Whitney. "Bring blankets and folding chairs too!"

Coastal Connections will also be running a concessions table where they will be collecting donations and providing drinks and snacks.

"Come on down and have fun," said Skane. "And on October 28th, make sure you show up wearing a costume!"

For more information, please contact the Amesbury Chamber of Commerce at info@amesburychamber.com or visit their website at www.amesburychamber.com.

HAVERHILL - MERRIMACK VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING Thursday, October 20th, VIRTUAL Meeting (public).

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission will hold its monthly virtual meeting on Thursday, October 20 at 11:00 a.m. The agenda includes updates on the commission's activities and is available at the MVPC website www.mvpc.org. For questions or details of this meeting contact Nancy Lavallee at nlavallee@mvpc.org◊

Will Drivers' Licenses for Illegal Aliens Give Republicans a Chance in Massachusetts?

Jim Lyons, head of the Massachusetts Republican Party has a plan to help get republicans elected in the November 8th state elections.

Lyons told a group of republican candidates and their supporters at the North Andover VFW this month that he believes his ballot question to stop illegal aliens from getting drivers licenses will also usher in victories for Geoff Diehl, and other republicans running for state office.

Lyons said that his strategy is get low propensity voters to go to the polls and use the list of 100,000 people who signed the ballot petition to do it.

"We have a plan. We have identified, by town, the number of people who signed the petition (to put licenses) on the ballot. There were over 100,000 signatures and 91,000 were certified."

"Of the 91,000 that were certified, 21,000 were Republicans, 60,000 were unenrolled, and 10,000 were Democrats. So, you can see, right across the board the support that this issue has with voters."

"In a recent poll it showed that 40% of the electorate in Massachusetts named the economy as their number one issue."

"In that poll, the data shows support on this issue among independents is 62% to 30% against giving drivers licenses to illegal aliens."

"This is going to be a great election cycle, Republicans, Independents, and conservative Democrats are all united around this issue and the policies that make this country great; freedom, liberty, personal responsibility. These folks on the left, they're nuts, there's no other way to describe them."

"Everybody remembers the famous line from the 90s 'it's the economy, stupid'. That's what it's all about. Inflation is almost at 10%, gas up 25%. electric bills, a 64% increase starting in November. Food costs are up 13.5%. It's all about the economy and the Democrats are the ones responsible for this economy."

"The skyrocketing inflation is out of control, and it is one party rule in Washington D.C. It's one-party rule here in Massachusetts. And if we ever, ever elect Maura Healey governor of Massachusetts she will destroy Massachusetts in less than six months."

"If we ever elect Andrea Campbell (Attorney General) criminals will be running the streets of Massachusetts."

"This election cycle we have a question on the ballot. Question #4. We need to vote No, and we need to get everyone we know to vote no."

"This ballot question is intended to drive people to the polls who don't normally come out in a state election."

"State-wide, we have 209,000 people who don't normally vote in a gubernatorial election but who would vote for Republicans if they did. They are low propensity voters."

"We're going to drive these low propensity voters to the polls with this issue: drivers licenses for illegal immigrants."

"The legislature in their arrogance overwhelmingly voted to give drivers licenses to illegal immigrants, and then overrode the governor's veto when he refused to sign it."

"This one piece of legislation will destroy our economy because of the extra tax dollars that will be spent on people who are in our country illegally. Not to mention the crime that will increase because of the illegal immigration."

"Fentanyl is running crazy in our streets. 85% of drug traffickers are from the illegal immigration population. The worst is, and this is what the media and the democrats who control them won't tell you, is that when they go and get a driver's license they are automatically registered to vote."

"And that license will give them access to everything that you and I as American citizens have. When I got my license, I was taught that getting a license was a privilege. What the radical lunatics on the left are doing in this state, are rewarding bad behavior."

What kind of message does that send to our young children? That rules don't matter?" ◊

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A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at this location, which is a disposal site as defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, § 2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. To evaluate the release, a Phase I Initial Site Investigation was performed pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0480. The site has been classified as TIER II pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0500. On September 23, 2022, NN Inc. filed a Revised TIER II Classification Submittal with the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). To obtain more information on this disposal site, please contact Lauren Konetzny of Cooperstown Environmental LLC, 23 Main Street, Andover, MA 01810, 978-470-4755. The Revised Tier Classification Submittal and the disposal site file can be viewed at MassDEP website using Release Tracking Number (RTN) 3-34557 at https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/wastesite or at MassDEP, Northeast Regional Office, 205B Lowell Street, Wilmington, MA 01887, 978-694-3200. Additional public involvement opportunities are available under 310 CMR 40.1403(9) and 310 CMR 40.1404.

IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGLIO

Providing Tax Relief for Massachusetts Residents

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,

Recently, I took to the Senate floor in calling on the Legislature to return to session and resume debate over stalled economic development and tax relief legislation.

Specifically, I have urged the Senate and House to suspend Rule 12A, the legislative rule that calls for an end to the formal legislative session on July 31 of the second year of the two-year session, in order to continue debate over this important bill.

The legislation, which includes more than $1 billion in tax cuts and rebates, plus investments toward local projects and a variety of sectors, was derailed in the last week of the legislative session amidst last-minute concerns raised over the law known as Chapter 62F. The law, which was approved by voters in 1986, places a cap on state tax revenue growth and mandates the overage to be returned to individuals who paid income taxes last year.

On September 15, State Auditor Suzanne Bump announced that, per her office's analysis, in compliance with Chapter 62F, nearly $3 billion in excess tax revenues must be returned to taxpayers. Now, it is up to the Legislature to take action in expending these funds and passing the economic development bill.

Now more than ever, our working families need every possible resource to help them through these challenging economic times. Especially now that the Auditor has certified this excess revenue, the Legislature has zero excuse regarding coming back into session to pass this economic relief bill. Let's get it done as soon as possible.

If you have any questions on this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me anytime via email at Diana.Dizoglio@masenate.gov or phone at 978-984-7747.

Yours in service, Diana ◊

Angel Manuel German Familia of North Andover Sentenced for Misusing Social Security Number

BOSTON – A North Andover man has been sentenced in federal court in Boston for fraudulently using someone else's Social Security number.

Angel Manuel German Familia, 38, was sentenced on Sept. 14, 2022, by U.S. District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns to 18 months in prison and three years of supervised release. German Familia is subject to deportation proceedings upon completion of his sentence. On May 31, 2022, German Familia pleaded guilty to two counts of false representation of Social Security number.

In 2016, German Familia fraudulently applied to renew a driver's license at the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles using the name, date of birth and Social Security number of a United States citizen. German Familia also applied for MassHealth benefits and opened bank accounts in the victim's name. German Familia was using the stolen identity since as early as 2009 and had submitted a Social Security card and birth certificate in the victim's name in a previous RMV application.

United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins; Matthew B. Millhollin, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston; Brian D. Boyle, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, New England Field Division; and Ketty Larco-Ward, Inspector in Charge of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Boston Division made the announcement. Valuable assistance was provided by the Massachusetts State Police; U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service; U.S. Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General; and the North Andover Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Fred M. Wyshak III of Rollins' Criminal Division prosecuted the case.

The investigation was conducted by Homeland Security Investigation's Document and Benefit Fraud Task Force (DBFTF), a specialized investigative group comprising personnel from various state, local, and federal agencies with expertise in detecting, deterring, and disrupting organizations and individuals involved in various types of documents, identity, and benefit fraud schemes. ◊

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Joe FINN on the issues:

OVER DEVELOPMENT:

Recent changes in state law have broken the system of local zoning and given too much power to wealthy, high density developers. Any change in town zoning should ***always*** be decided by **broad based** consensus and should always be aimed at benefiting the needs of the **residents and the community** above all else. I will work to reform this broken system.

INFLATION:

The average household is spending $460 more each month to buy the same goods and services as last year. **THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE.** I will be a voice for fiscally responsible, common-sense economics to address the massive overspending that is causing the inflation crisis.

EDUCATION & LOCAL AID:

While our overall state budget has seen tremendous growth over the last few years, local aid funding has not kept pace. I will make increasing local aid funding my number one priority so that our schools, first responders, roads, and other local services have the funding they need to do the best job possible for our families.

TAX RELIEF:

I am fully committed to protecting the "Chapter 62F" tax rebate law which will return over $3 Billion back to state taxpayers. Further, I support Gov. Charlie Baker's effort to pass the recent economic development bill, which includes additional rebates to help families combat rising inflation.

Joe FINN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Mark Sivers, DMD

Dr. Mark Sivers' primary focus is to provide an exceptional patient experience. He utilizes technology, like intraoral photography and 3D imaging, to make the most accurate diagnosis possible and provide effective treatment solutions. For more than 15 years, he practiced in a multi-specialty practice and taught as an Associate Professor at the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. He also served as the team dentist to the Boston Red Sox. In 2008, Dr. Sivers worked with colleagues at the Harvard Business School to discover more efficient ways to practice dentistry with fewer complications, better outcomes, and greater patient satisfaction.

Ana Mateo, DMD

Dr. Mateo prides herself in her attentiveness to the needs of her patients and providing positive patient experiences while also providing them with quality comprehensive care. She is excited to join the team at Methuen Family Dentistry and to welcome you to the practice and help you reach your dental goals!

Dr. Mateo attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts where she received her Bachelors in Chemistry. She then completed her dental training at the Boston University School of Dental Medicine where she graduated magna cum laude. Following graduation, she completed a general practice residency at the University of Washington in Seattle.

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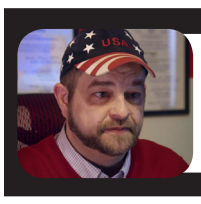


Paying Attention!

with Tom Duggan

Maggie Hassan's Shameful TV Commercials Mean it's Time to Retire

The one thing you can never accuse me of is being a partisan mouthpiece for any political party.

Currently I am working really hard to get Democrat Diana DiZoglio elected as Massachusetts State Auditor, Democrat Lawrence Councilor Estela Reyes elected State Rep. in Lawrence, and Republican Geoff Diehl elected governor. I also supported N.H. Senator Jean Shaheen in her last bid for re-election, mostly because she is great at constituent services, is bi-partisan on many issues, and is not ignoring the homeless epidemic.

EXPLOITING HER SPECIAL NEEDS KID FOR POLITICAL POWER

This year I am so horrified by the dishonesty and shameful behavior of Maggie Hassan on the campaign trail in New Hampshire - and in particular, her television ads - I couldn't let this election go by without addressing it.

In one TV ad, Hassan exploits her special needs son, actually showing him in the commercial, in her quest to maintain power in Washington D.C. As someone who worked with special needs adults for nearly ten years, I can't image any parent I dealt with using their child in a television commercial for a politician. In fact, nearly 100% of the clients I worked with at Fidelity House, Class, Inc., and American Training had signed orders in the clients file from the family prohibiting photos or videos of any kind.

Yet, here's Maggie Hassan parading her special needs kid on TV trying to get votes. It's beyond shameful. What's wrong here is that Hassan doesn't see anything wrong with what she's doing. I do. And I'm willing to bet a lot of families of special needs kids out there do too.

MAGGIE HASSAN IS NO JEAN SHAHEEN

One of the things I liked about Jean Shaheen during her re-election bid was the fact that she was more bipartisan that most of her democrat colleagues. Maggie Hassan on the other hand, does what her party tells her to do 100% of the time. Not once did she stray from her puppet masters in D.C. That's not putting New Hampshire first, it's putting partisan hackery first. As the result of her blind obedience to the Biden Administration our economy is in ruins. She also supported Biden's actions to shut down existing gas and oil pipelines driving up gas and home heating prices for N.H. residents. That's not putting New Hampshire first either!

Yet, if you take a look at Maggie Hassan's TV ads, she touts herself over and over (and OVER) as a "bi-partisan" senator. Did she redefine the word Bi-Partisan because that's not it. It would be laughable if the stakes weren't so high.

On top of all this Hassan supports teaching sexual topics to young kids behind the backs of parents. She supports racism in the schools with "critical race theory" that teaches some races are inferior to others.

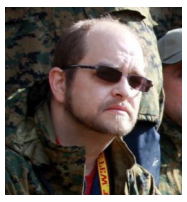
But Hassan's sins this election season go so much further.

She supported every mask and vaccine mandate put before her, from expelling members of the military for not getting a (now proven dangerous) vaccine, to closing private businesses long after it was learned that COVID was not as dangerous as we were told.

She supports open borders, licenses, and government benefits for illegal aliens, and refuses to stand with women in sports who are fighting to stop men from competing in - and ruining their sport.

With the drug addiction and homeless problem at epidemic proportions, Hassan has done nothing to help the homeless addicts of New Hampshire or to stop the flow of heroin and fentanyl into the state. Finally, those who want to defund the police support Hassan, despite her bogus, pro-police claims in her commercials.

It's time for the voters of New Hampshire to retire Maggie Hassan. ◊



Tom Duggan is publisher of The Valley Patriot, the book "Heroes in Our Midst", a former Lawrence School Committee member, and hosts the Paying Attention! Podcast which can be downloaded on iTunes, iHeartRadio, Spotify, & PodBean. Email your comments to valleypatriot@aol.com.

Joe Finn

Adrianne Ramos

Finn Vs. Ramos in New Legislative District

VOTE NOVEMBER 8th!

With the districts for state representative being changed this year, left wing Democrat Christina Minicucci of North Andover has decided not to run for reelection. In her wake are two candidates running to replace her. They are Joe Finn, and Adrianne Ramos. To be fair to the voters we took the bio information from each candidate's webpage and published them here so you can make up your own mind as to who to vote for. Following the once every ten-year redistricting, the 14th Essex district now consists of the following:

Amesbury: Precincts 1, 6
Boxford: Precincts 2, 3
Groveland (All)
North Andover: Precincts 1 - 6
West Newbury (All)

To find out what precinct you are in and where to vote, visit https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/bal/myelectioninfo.aspx

ADRIANNE RAMOS

Adrianne lives in North Andover with her husband Adam, their children, Sarah, Lilly and Avery, and snuggly labradoodle Marshall. Her children attend North Andover Public Schools. Adrianne was raised in Abington and attended law school in Boston prior to settling in the Merrimack Valley. Her husband was raised in the Bradford area of Haverhill, where he and his family have owned a small business providing essential childcare services for more than 20 years.

Adrianne is a skilled litigator who was named one of Boston Magazine's Top Lawyers for 2021. She is a Partner at the law firm Prince Lobel. Over the course of her legal career, Adrianne has defended victims of domestic violence, advocated for public policy changes through a nonprofit organization, and helped countless families through difficult legal matters. A member of the Women's Bar Association Amicus Brief Committee, Adrianne has collaborated to write amicus briefs in pivotal appeals matters impacting public policy.

Adrianne's personal and professional experience have given her a strong foundation to understand community and individual needs across a variety of socioeconomic, cultural, and racial backgrounds.

JOE FINN

North Andover's Joe Finn, former special agent with the USPS Office of Inspector General, running for state representative

REPS: PAGE 21

THANK YOU VETERANS

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Sunday November 6, 2022 8:30-11:30am
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Methuen Village Floral Artwork

Residents of Methuen Village created floral artwork out of buttons! At Methuen Village, the pursuit of knowledge and enrichment is at the core of our EnrichedLIFE Program Our research-based lifelong learning, arts, music, fitness and nutrition programs help seniors stay sharp, social and independent. Above left is Methuen Village residents Anna Sullivan, and Betty Hannon (with Resident Care Associate Gabby Leblanc).

Philip Wood and Michael Agricola, owners of Salvatore's Restaruant in Lawrence donated and served a gourmet meal to the homeless last month during TMF's Family Dinner for the Homeless. TMF feeds the homeless every Wednesday night from 9-11pm at the Buckley Garage on Common St. in Lawrence. From left to right: Brian "Nino" Cervera, Anthony and Adrianna Agricola, Philip Wood, Michael Agricola, and TMF founder Michael Gorman.

Merrimack Valley Chamber Hosts Annual Public Safety Forum

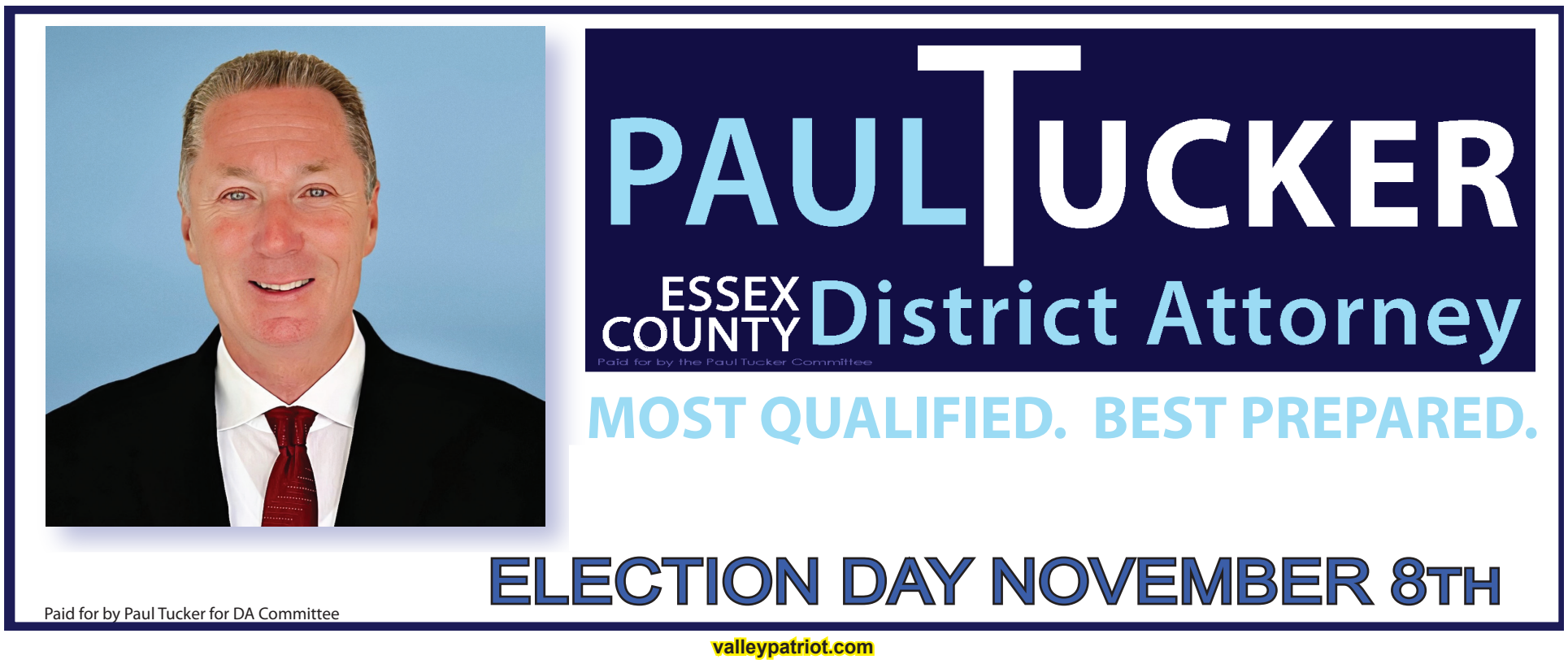
L to R: Joe Bevilacqua, MVCC President/CEO; Essex County Sheriff Coppinger; District Attorney Blodgett; Lawrence Police Chief Vasque; Haverhill Police Chief Pistone; North Andover Police Chief Gray; Methuen Police Chief McNamara.

Attendees had the chance to hear from District Attorney Blodgett; Essex County Sheriff Coppinger; Haverhill Police Chief Pistone; Lawrence Police Chief Vasque; Methuen Police Chief McNamara and No. Andover Police Chief Gray as well as ask their questions directly to the speakers.

MBTA Oversight

During September, the Legislature remained in recess, only convening the informal sessions and intermittent committee hearings. As the Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation, Representative Devers participated in this month's MBTA oversight hearing with the rest of his colleagues on the committee. This hearing was the second MBTA oversight hearing this year in which the committee examined deficiencies in safety management at the MBTA. This hearing was also the first following the full report from the Federal Transit Authority (FTA). The hearing allowed Representative Devers and other committee members the opportunity to speak with officials from the Department of Public Utilities, the MBTA Board of Directors' Chair, and various MBTA employees.

Representative Devers' office continued to assist constituents with help on issues including immigration, education, and housing during September. If you or someone you know has a problem in the city of Lawrence, Representative Devers can be contacted at his email, marcos.devers@mahouse.gov ◊



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EYE ON DRACUT

Help Slam the Brakes on Reckless Legislation

By Brian Genest
VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

The Massachusetts legislature has a reputation for coming up with bad ideas and turning them into law. Giving illegal immigrants state driver's licenses is the latest one. What could possibly go wrong? Everything!

The new law, slated to take effect in July 2023, is one that affects the public safety of every person in our state. It became law after state legislators overrode a veto by Gov. Charlie Baker, who warned that, because the state currently automatically registers driver's license applicants to vote, the new law could lead to confusion about voter eligibility. Baker said the Registry of Motor Vehicles doesn't have the capacity to verify the identities of immigrants without legal status and cautioned that the law significantly increases the risk that noncitizens will be registered to vote.

In other words, first, illegal immigrants will get driver's licenses, then they'll be casting ballots in our elections. That's the kind of slippery slope we don't need in our state.

If there's anyone who understands this issue, including the tragic impact of an illegal immigrant behind the wheel, it's Maureen Maloney of Milford. In 2011, Maloney's 23-year-old son, Matthew Denice, was struck on his motorcycle and dragged to his death by a drunk driver, an illegal alien from Ecuador without a license. (That illegal alien should have already been deported: He had a string of traffic violations on his driving record dating to 2007, including driving without a license. Milford police also arrested him in early 2008 for assault and battery on a police officer and breaking and entering. That case was continued without a finding for a year.)

At the time of Denice's death, Gov. Deval Patrick appeared to have a soft spot for criminals and strong support for illegal immigration.

"You know, illegal immigration didn't kill this person, a drunk driver killed this person," Patrick said, prompting a strong response from the victim's family about his manners and his opposition to a federal law-enforcement effort by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to deport dangerous illegal aliens who are repeat criminal offenders.

"Please show a little more respect for my son and at least refer to him by his name, Matthew," Maloney countered. "This person was an illegal immigrant, and if we had the Secure Communities Act in place, this person may not have had the opportunity to get drunk that day, to get behind the wheel of a car, to kill my child."

Today, that illegal immigrant is serving more than a decade in prison for killing Denice, after being found guilty of motor vehicle homicide, manslaughter by motor vehicle, reckless endangerment of a child (his 6-year-old son was in the vehicle at the time!), leaving the scene of an accident that caused personal injury or death, failing to stop for police and driving without a license.

Maloney is leading the charge to repeal the law providing driver's licenses for illegal immigrants, as chair of the Fair and Secure Massachusetts committee, which gathered more than 100,000 signatures to place the issue on the November statewide ballot.

Granting driver's licenses to immigrants who have entered our country illegally rewards them for breaking the law and that makes no sense. It also provides a ridiculous incentive for more illegal immigrants to come to Massachusetts. Worst of all, letting noncitizens vote in our state is nothing short of, well, criminal.

Law and order matters. Election integrity matters. So does common sense. Unfortunately, common sense isn't very common in the state legislature, but this time you get to have a say in the voting booth on Tuesday, November 8.

Make your voice heard. Keep our roads safe and our elections secure. Vote no on driver's licenses for illegal immigrants. Vote "No" on Question 4.

— Brian Genest is the producer and host of Eye On Dracut, winner of the 2022 Hometown Media Award for news, which air on DATV Channel 8 and online at DracutTV.org. ◊

Massachusetts Academy of General Dentistry Endorses Question #2 on Dental Insurance Reform

The Massachusetts Academy of General Dentistry (MA AGD) endorses dental insurance reform, so patients' premium dollars are spent on patient care. Massachusetts law establishes an 88 percent medical loss ratio (MLR) for medical insurance plans but there is currently no MLR for dental insurance plans. An MLR is the portion of premium revenue that a healthcare insurance company spends on claims, patient care, and healthcare quality for its customers.

One dental insurer's IRS 990 form documents it spent less than 60% of premium revenue on patient care and kept the remaining $383 million for administrative costs, exorbitant executive salaries, and profits.

Through a ballot initiative, a dental insurance MLR will appear as Question 2 on the statewide ballot in the November 8 election. The referendum will ensure MLRs apply to dental plans in the same way they currently apply to medical plans. This ballot initiative would make dental providers more transparent and accountable to the patients they serve.

If passed, this consumer protection law is a value-guarantee that requires dental insurers to pay at least 83% of revenue towards patient care, or refund patients with the dollars that have not been spent.

"As dentists, we see patients in and out of our chairs. We have the unique and important opportunity to inform and send the message to all of our patients and colleagues," says Massachusetts AGD President, Sarita Patel.

The Massachusetts AGD Board has been active in motivating members to spread the word in a grassroots manner, going door-to-door is still the best way to inform our communities.

If the ballot question wins, dental insurance premiums will either stay the same or decrease. Funds used to support increased patient care will come from removing corporate waste. Patients will be refunded if dental insurance companies don't meet the 83 percent MLR. The increase in premiums is being vastly skewed and falsely claimed in some of the marketing that opposes this initiative.

MA AGD recognizes the hard work of the Committee on Dental Insurance Quality. Members are encouraged to vote "YES on Question 2," inform patients of the initiative, and visit the website – there are opportunities to volunteer, endorse, and donate to support the dental ballot question!

For more information, visit https://fairdentalinsurance.org/ ◊

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A.G. Says Mississippi Woman Stole Columbia Gas Explosion Payments Meant for Victims

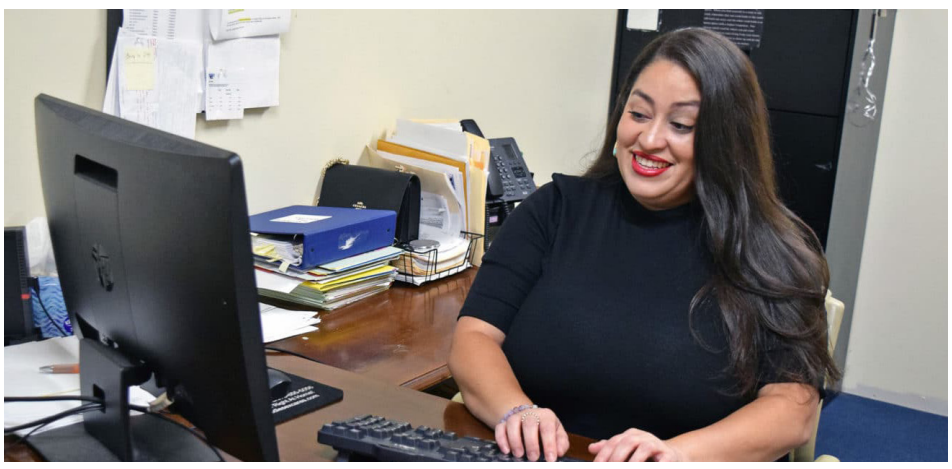
Also Stole Identities of Explosion Victims to Obtain Payments

WHAV.NET
A Jackson, Mississippi woman was recently indicted in connection with stealing more than $28,000 and the identities of four victims of the 2018 Merrimack Valley gas explosions, while she worked as an insurance adjuster.

Attorney General Maura Healey said Monday Lashaunda Studaway was arraigned last Thursday in Essex County Superior Court on charges of four counts of identity fraud and two counts of larceny over $1,200. She is due back in court Dec. 16 for a pre-trial hearing.

According to a release from the attorney general's office, between October and December 2018, Studaway worked as an insurance adjuster on behalf of Columbia Gas. In that role she was responsible for handling the financial claims from residents impacted by the September 2018 gas explosions in the Merrimack Valley that devastated the region, resulting in thousands of dollars in property damage and leaving thousands of residents and businesses without heat and hot water in the cold winter months. Explosions rocked Lawrence, Andover and North Andover and resulted in the death of an 18-year-old Lawrence man.

Healey's release said Studaway stole $28,971 and the identities of four claimants impacted by the explosion by dispersing pre-paid debit cards, intended for claimants, to herself. Studaway would either submit false claims under a real claimant's file or create a file using a fictitious person's name.



The Psychological Center, Inc. Recognizes Chief of Staff Virginia Gomez for 20 Years of Service

LAWRENCE — Chief Executive Officer Carina Pappalardo would like to recognize Chief of Staff Virginia Gomez for 20 years of service and caring she has provided to The Psychological Center and its guests.

Gomez joined The Psychological Center as a receptionist in September of 2002, and has learned from her coworkers, grown, and advanced through the organization ever since, becoming Chief of Staff in 2021.

After working as a receptionist, Gomez was the front desk supervisor overseeing six team members in the outpatient clinic. She was promoted to Office Manager in 2011, leading the front desk department, intake department, and medical records department. She is bilingual and also serves as an agency interpreter when needed.

According to CEO Pappalardo, Gomez has been a constant and loyal employee, bringing her knowledge, skills, and upbeat attitude to work every day.

"She has been here through the opening and closing of multiple programs over the years, a few changes in leadership, and consistently goes above and beyond. I have learned a lot along the way through her. Her passion, dedication, and achievements are highly commendable. Without question she is always available and willing to help in any area needed," Pappalardo said. "I am honored to celebrate her 20th work anniversary and look forward to working alongside her for another 20."

Gomez was born in Chicago but moved to Lawrence with her family when she was 10 and attended Lawrence High School.

Gomez said she grew up in a city where drugs were prevalent, quickly realizing even as a child that she did not want to follow those paths.

Gomez said she was drawn to The Psychological Center, and to work helping those with substance use disorders, because people she knew struggled.

"I thought I'd be able to help them more if I gained knowledge. I wanted to be able to help," said Gomez. "I was hired as a receptionist, but I was able to learn from people in every department and absorbed things like a sponge whenever I could. I wanted to keep learning."

Recently Gomez has worked at Pegasus House, Women's View, and at the Daybreak Shelter as needed due to staffing shortages assisting with anything when needed. Working directly with guests has taught her that kindness and patience are far more effective when trying to reach people.

"I've learned so much just from being in this job, being in the community, and being in this environment," said Gomez. "I've learned that you can be understanding and patient, but also not be an enabler."

As The Psychological Center has grappled with a staffing shortage recently, Gomez has also worked to help recruit new employees, and has also filled in at Pegasus House working as a case manager for some of the guests, an assignment she enjoyed because she enjoys connecting with guests.

Gomez said the biggest thing she has learned over her two decades with the organization is that substance use disorders are truly indiscriminate in who they affect.

"Anyone can fall into addiction. I've met scientists, engineers, judges, and lawyers who were struggling," said Gomez. "It's not just some select group of people. It can be anybody, and that's something that's really blown my mind."

Over the past few months, Gomez and even Pappalardo have also pitched in by helping at the organization's three programs, and Gomez said she is often inspired by Pappalardo's willingness to do any jobs that are needed, despite her position as CEO.

"Carina plays a very active role in the agency jumping in wherever and whenever anyone needs her. Her presence at the programs makes a big difference and she has a big, amazing personality. You don't find many leaders like her," Gomez said. "I think the only way they'll ever get me out of here is to drag me out. I love this place. I love what we do, and I will forever keep waking up and wanting to come here every day."

For more information on The Psychological Center, Inc., or for information on positions available within the organization, visit: https://psychologicalcenter.com/. ◊

NEXT COLUMN

When Old Habits Don't Die: An Issue of Stolen Valor for Teresa English?

Duncan Burns
VETERAN COLUMNIST

There's something about the habits of we military folk.

The military teaches and trains us to be methodical from day one. Whether it's to stand at attention a certain way, the way we should walk, to the way we fold our clothes. This writer still folds and hangs his clothes with near perfect alignment from his days in the military for better or worse. When we wear our clothes, we make sure we wear them a certain way, in particular, our "gig line." It is the line of your button-down shirt and aligns with your belt-buckle, never off-set. However, never in my wildest would I imagine these habits would become a story in a Massachusetts State Representative race.

Recently, Turtleboy Daily News published a story about a Billerica State Representative Candidate, Teresa English. In the piece, aside from the political banter, Mrs. English claimed she served in The United States Air Force, this writer's alma mater. What drew my attention was the photo of a political campaign promotion of Mrs. English. In the photo, Mrs. English is in the traditional Air Force Blue uniform, but that's not what caught my attention. Aside from what looked like a terrible photoshop image of her "cover" (a hat), was also the "U.S." insignia on her lapel. In The Air Force, enlisted personnel have the U.S. encircled, officers do not, hers was that of an officer. However, her cover, photoshop or not, was plain, that of enlisted status. Officers in the military have a silver or gold embroidery on their covers, depending on their rank. Clearly this was a mismatch.

I commented about this uniform irregularity on social media Candidate English was mentioned in, which incredibly was missed by many, but if you never served in the military, you would be none-the-wiser.

Upon this discovery, many commented to put the entire issue to rest, would be to provide a copy of her DD-214. A DD-214 is what every service member receives upon discharge from the military. As of this writing, Mrs. English has not publicly provided her DD-214. What she did do is block this writer on all her social media upon the discovery of her uniform not being proper.

Teresa English in "uniform"

Is Mrs. English truly a Veteran? We don't know. The entire episode could be put to rest by simply presenting her discharge paperwork. What this writer does know, and I think I can speak for every Veteran out there that looks at her political campaign promotion carefully, is that her uniform doesn't add up. Massachusetts General Law Chapter 272, Section 106 is the "Stolen Valor" statute, which carries up to a year in The House of Corrections, a $1,000 fine, or both. Maybe this should be put to the test? Let The People decide.

EMAIL: duncanburns2013@gmail.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: Teresa English is a candidate for state representative in Billerica whose military service has been called into question due to her improper usage of insignias. She has refused to provide any proof of service. If any Valley Patriot reader has information to confirm or dispute English's claim of service, please email the Valley Patriot (anonymously if you like) at valleypatriot@aol.com ◊

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Tomorrow's Eagle~Tribune Stories ... TODAY!

MA Ballot Questions; Taxes, Illegals, Alcohol Dental Insurance

QUESTION #1 INCREASE TAXES

Should there be a change to the Massachusetts State Constitution to permanently increase taxes. Currently, there is a $2.3B surplus in the state budget.

A "yes" vote supports amending the state constitution to create an additional permanent tax of 4% for income over $1 million, in addition to the existing 5% flat-rate income tax, and dedicate revenue to education and transportation purposes. This tax will also apply to windfall, one time revenue from real estate or business sales.

A "no" vote opposes amending the state constitution to create an additional permanent tax of 4% for income over $1 million, thereby maintaining the existing flat-rate income tax of 5% with revenue dedicated to the state's general fund.

QUESTION #2 DENTAL PREMIUM REFUNDS

A "yes" vote supports this ballot initiative will give a refund to dental insurance customers back who do not use their insurance premiums in a full year. It will also require dental insurance carriers to submit an annual comprehensive financial statement to the Division of Insurance; and authorize the commissioner of the Division of Insurance to approve or disapprove of any insurance rates.

A "no" vote opposes any changes.

QUESTION #3 INCREASE ALCOHOL LICENSES AND PROHIBIT AUTOMATIC CHECKOUT

A "yes" vote supports this ballot initiative to: incrementally increase the combined number of retail beer and wine licenses and all alcoholic beverage licenses an establishment could own from no more than nine in 2022 to no more than 18 by 2031; and

limit the maximum number of licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages an establishment could own to seven; prohibit in-store automated or self-checkout sales of alcohol; change the formula used to calculate fines by using gross profits on all retail sales rather than the gross profits on the sale of alcohol; and add out-of-state driver's licenses to the list of approved identification under the State Liquor Control Act.

A "no" vote opposes this ballot initiative that would make changes to alcohol retail licensing, fining, and operations.

QUESTION #4 GIVING DRIVERS LICENSES TO ILLEGAL ALIENS

A "Yes vote will allow the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles to give drivers licenses to illegal aliens regardless of status. It will also grant other state benefits to illegals such as health care and education.

A "No" vote will repeal the current legislation and deny drivers licenses to illegal aliens. ◊

RE-ELECT COLLEEN GARRY

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- Colleen supports what she thinks is right…as long as it is a good idea, she will support it regardless of whose idea it is. Colleen is the most **BIPARTISAN** member of the House of Representatives!

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- Secured funds for local road and bridge projects
- Provided increased funding for senior citizens' health care; home care; and local Councils on Aging
- Proudly supporting our active military and providing veterans with the best state benefits in the Nation
- Advocating for increased funding for our children's education, school safety and school building projects
- Delivered important public safety dollars to our local police and fire departments
- Voted to suspend the gas tax while consumers were being faced with extraordinarily high fuel prices
- Helping constituents every day with the red tape of state government as they faced serious issues like unemployment claims during the pandemic

PLEASE VOTE FOR COLLEEN GARRY for State Representative in Dracut and Tyngsborough! Election Day is November 8th.

I respectfully ask for your vote!
Thank you!
Colleen

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Colleen Garry
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KANE'S CORNER

Lowell Housing Authority Creates Supportive Housing for Veterans By Preserving a Historic Home

Kane has Exciting Breaking News from Lowell Massachusetts! Executive Director Gary Wallace and Assistant Executive Director Adam Garvey of the Lowell Housing Authority report the LHA will Convert the Historic Hadley House, with an original construction date of 1822 to five supportive housing units for Veteran's. Gary Wallace reports the Housing Authority started Operation Returning Veterans after The September 11 attacks, anticipating that returning veterans would be in need of housing assistance. He explained to Kane that veteran's affordable housing has always been a priority of the Lowell Housing Authority. The Hadley Housing Development is an example of the agencies dedication to providing safe and affordable housing for our service members. The Housing Authority and community partners are very excited about not only preserving a historical building but providing housing for those who served our country.

Adam Garvey Assistant Executive Director of the Lowell Housing Authority reported after passing legislation in July of 2022, the Lowell Housing Authority will purchase the land from the Mass Department of Environmental Management. The Housing Authority is moving forward with the design and construction of five supportive housing units for veterans. Kane could see that Adam was very excited about serving the veterans in his community with the fundamental need of supportive housing as well as rehabbing a Lowell Historic Landmark. What a unique opportunity for the City of Lowell in general.

Adam Garvey gave Kane a quick lesson on the history of this historic landmark. The Hadley House was originally located on Middlesex Street and occupied by Mr. Harvey Burnett until 1827. The new owner Samuel P. Hadley and his family lived in the house for over 100 years. Samuel Hadley moved to Lowell to run the Middlesex canal. He was also a selectman and treasurer of Chelmsford, and in 1852 a delegate to the Constitutional Convention. His son, Judge Samuel Page Hadley (1831-1919) was a clerk of the Lowell Police Court from 1857 to 1885 and its judge for another 27 years. Besides being a judge, he also served as a local Historian. The Hadley House was moved in 1990 by the City of Lowell with assistance from the LHPC and a Block Grant to its current location at 719 Broadway Street. The House has been vacant since the move.

Executive Director Gary Wallace praised the Lowell community for coming together to make this project viable. Community partners include the Historical Society of Lowell and the Veterans Administration, and of course the Housing Board for Directors for their unwavering dedication and support. Gary told Kane this was a unique opportunity for community partners to rehabilitate a historical building that has not been utilized for a number of years. The historical society will work to maintain the historical design especially on the outside of the building. The Veterans Administration will work closely with the Lowell Housing Authority to create a Veteran's Supportive Housing list for the property. Occupants will be veteran members from our local community.

Kane was intrigued to learn about the community partnership that is making this housing development. possible. He learned that Representative Rady Mom strongly advocated for the Supportive Veterans Housing bill along with Senator Edward J Kennedy that sponsored the bill. Funding from the project will come from City, State, and Local funds as well as grants and other funding sources. Gary told Kane that the Housing Authority has hit the ground running already surveying the property and working with an engineering department and Historical Society on structural restoration and rehabilitation. Kane thought Gary and Adam were excellent networkers and leaders in the community. It makes perfect sense that the housing authority would be the leader in this project with their years of experience in affordable housing.

Gary explained to Kane that the Lowell Housing Authority has a resident services department that will be instrumental in connecting the veteran occupants of the Hadley House to community-based resources including their current relationship with the veterans administration. Wow, Kane was impressed to see the Housing Authority and the community come together for such an important project. Kane thought, today is a good day, I had the opportunity to meet great people doing good in the world. We will keep you posted as the project progresses.

Woof

Kane Peaslee, Valley Patriot ◊

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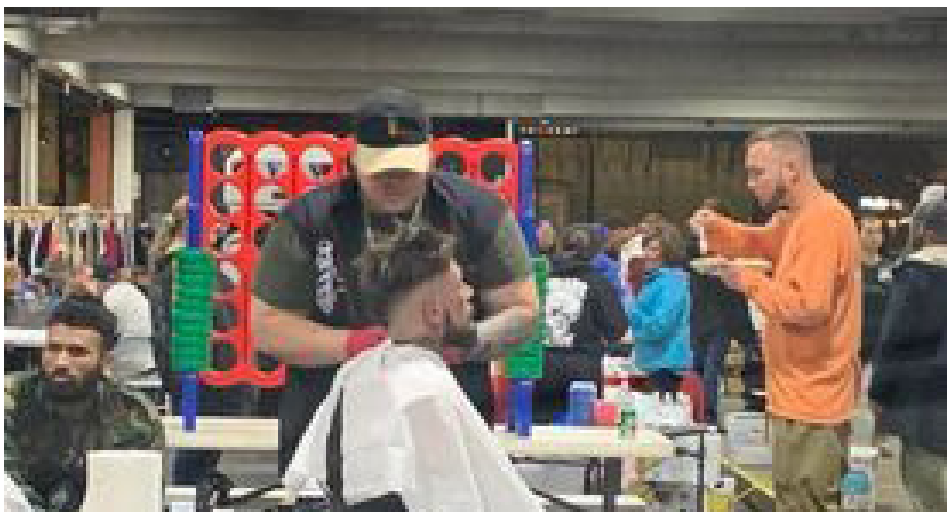
Dr. John Armano is pleased to announce the opening of Stadium Chiropractic PC located at 2 Durso Ave in Lawrence, adjacent to the Registry of Motor Vehicles behind Taco Bell. Dr. John Armano has been serving the Merrimack Valley for the past 31 years specializing in injury rehab sports medicine as well as pain management for acute and chronic conditions. Dr. Cindy Armano has been serving Boston's North shore for the past 31 years also specializing in injury rehab as well as family care and nutritional counseling. PHONE: (508) 350-7036. Se Habla Espanol.



The guys at Five Star Barbershop in Pelham New Hampshire donated their time last week to give free haircuts to the homeless during TMF's Family Dinner for the Homeless at the Buckley Garage in Lawrence.

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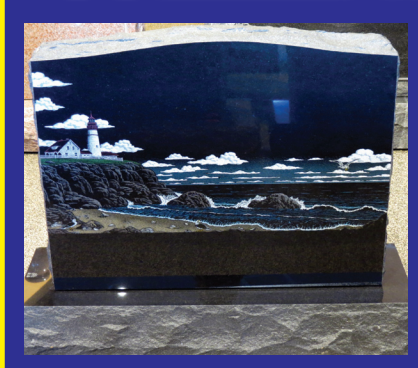

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Education Forum: What Is Social-Emotional Learning?

Find out what schools DON'T want you to know about WHAT they're really teaching your kids

Date and time: Thu, October 20th, 6:30–9PM at the Newburyport Elks Function Rooms, 25 Low Street Newburyport, MA 01950. WHEN: Doors Open at 6:30pm. Forum starts promptly at 7pm. $20.00 Participant Registration Fee (all proceeds go toward the funding of this educational event) Cash Bar - Light Refreshments Served. We will feature our guest speakers followed by a Q & A session.

WHAT THEY ARE TEACHIG YOUR KIDS

Find out what schools DON'T want you to know about WHAT they're really teaching your kids.

What every parent NEEDS to know about Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), Culturally Responsive Teaching and Comprehensive Sex Education (CRE) in Schools.

FEATURED GUEST SPEAKERS: Jennifer McWilliams and Michael King

Jennifer McWilliams is a former teacher and Social Emotional Learning expert.

Jennifer McWilliams was teaching in 2020 when her administration fired her for exposing the Social-Emotional Learning program at her school. She currently has a first amendment federal lawsuit to defend her right to free speech.

She is a consultant for parental rights groups, government officials, and law firms across our country. She is a member of AEI's Conservative Education Reform Network and has written for The American Mind and Center for Renewing America. Most recently, Jennifer helped with a landmark lawsuit in Tennessee that argues SEL is in violation of the state's Critical Race Theory ban.

Michael King is the Director of Community Alliances at the Massachusetts Family Institute.

Prior to Michael's role at Massachusetts Family Institute, he served as Family Ministries Director at a local church and principal of a K-12 Christian school. He has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Messiah College and a Master's degree in Christian Leadership from Liberty University.

Michael has spoken at about 200 churches in Massachusetts over the past 6 years, educating and inspiring people to get involved in their local schools and government. Michael was thrilled to be a part of the historic OPT OUT of Sex Education movement in Worcester last year! Over 3,800 students opted out of pornographic sex education in kindergarten through 12th grades! He is also excited to be working with about 30 churches across Massachusetts that have decided to start Learning Centers to meet the education needs of so many students leaving the public schools in Massachusetts. Michael hosts weekly video calls on Monday nights at 7:30 and 8:00 to educate parents about explicit sex education, school alternatives, and pornographic books in school libraries. For more information about these weekly calls regarding sex education and school alternatives, text the word "Champion" to 87891. For the call regarding explicit books in school libraries, text the word "Books" to 87891.

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WHAT really is being taught in our schools with regard to the "buzz words" Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), Critical Race Theory (CRT), Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), Gender Identity Ideology, and Culturally Responsive Teaching.

WHAT Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) is and what the impact will be on sex education already being taught in public schools throughout the State of MA if the MA House of Representatives passes the "Healthy Youth Act" Massachusetts Senate Bill 2459.

WHY our kids are given all these surveys in school and what they are really about. WHAT the difference is between "Active" and "Passive" parental consent. HOW you can "OPT-OUT" your child from being administered these surveys and from participating in sex education.

WHAT rights you have as a parent. WHAT the "Protection of Pupil Rights" law is and how to know if your school is violating these rights.

HOW to write a Freedom of Information Request (FOIA) to obtain public records about topics that are being taught that you have questions about that your school officials do not answer.

WHAT actions you can take to have a voice in your community to engage other parents and citizens. ◊

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-Mike Gagliardi,
Local 175 Laborers' Union of North America

MA Lottery Creates $1.1B in Net Profit for the State

State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg announced today that the Massachusetts State Lottery produced $1.105 billion in net profit for the Commonwealth during the 2022 fiscal year that began July 1, 2021 and ended June 30, 2022, exceeding the $1 billion mark in consecutive years for the first time in the Lottery's 50-year history.

Lottery revenues rang in at a record high of $5.863 billion, topping the previous record of $5.828 billion set in fiscal year 2021, when net profit totaled an all-time high of $1.112 billion. It is the eighth year in a row that revenues have eclipsed $5 billion.

"Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the Lottery continues to deliver critical resources to all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg, Chair of the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission. "We thank our customers, our retail partners, and our Lottery team members, all of whom play important roles in the Lottery's success."

Since selling its first ticket in 1972, the Mass Lottery has generated over $143 billion in revenues, awarded over $100 billion in prizes, returned over $31 billion in net profit to the Commonwealth for unrestricted local aid provided to cities and towns, and paid over $8 billion in commissions and bonuses to its statewide network of retailers.

"With record setting sales and prizes, and over $1 billion returned to communities again this year, Massachusetts is a state of winning for Lottery players, our retail partners, and every city and town in the Commonwealth," said Mark William Bracken, the Mass Lottery's Interim Executive Director.

With 73.5 percent of all revenue returned to players in the form of winnings in FY 2022, the Lottery set a record by paying out $4.309 billion in prizes, surpassing the previous high of $4.283 billion paid out in FY 2021. Prize payouts can fluctuate from year to year based on the schedule or rate at which players cash in their prizes. In FY 2022, Lottery players won 196 prizes valued at $1 million or more, including 29 prizes valued at $2 million or more.

The Lottery's network of retailers earned $335 million in commissions and bonuses in FY 2022, also a record, surpassing the previous high of $333 million set in FY 2021.

The Lottery's administrative costs were less than two percent of overall revenues.

The Lottery announced an estimated net profit figure of $1.102 billion in July, noting that the final statement of operations would be completed in the fall.

WEATHER 101 with AL KAPRIELIAN

Foliage in the Valley

GOOD EEEEVENING!

Welcome to October and the first full month of the fall season. The leaves will continue to change color as we go through the month as a result of cooler days with a lower sun angle along with less daylight. Foliage should start to reach peak in mid-October in the Merrimack Valley. Foliage peaks earlier the farther north you go in New England. As you move south to the south coast including Cape Cod & the Islands peak foliage does not occur until later October into early November.

During October, the daily average high temperature drops as we go through the month. For Boston, the average high temperature is 67 degrees at the start of the month dropping to 57 degrees by the end of the month. During the month of October, we will lose 80 minutes of daylight. With days getting shorter the nights will be getting longer. Recapping September, we did not see the hot days of July & August when temperatures reached 90 degrees and higher.

In September we did see some days with temperatures in the 80s and also days in the 70s. The Upper-level high pressure system known as the Bermuda high did not have as much influence in our weather in September as it became suppressed by the northern jet stream.

The Bermuda high, (which was stronger in June and July) was the reason we saw many hot days in the 90s from July through most of August. In terms of rainfall there were some wet days in September, however, the amount of rain that fell depended on location.

The heavier rain that fell seemed to be located more over areas south of Boston especially southeast Massachusetts and Cape Cod & the Islands. The rainfall in September helped with our drought although it did not cause the drought to go away completely. The big weather events in September were in the development of tropical weather. After a slow start to tropical weather this year it became very active in September. There were hurricanes Danielle and Earl which stayed out in the open Atlantic and had no weather impacts to the east coast of the U.S. Hurricane Earl did produce some rough surf and dangerous rip currents along the east coast including the New England beaches.

The first storm to make landfall was Hurricane Fiona. Fiona became quite intense and came close enough to cause a lot of damage along with widespread power outages to Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Atlantic Canada. Hurricane Fiona stayed out to sea and caused no weather impacts to the East Coast of the U.S. other than rough surf and dangerous rip currents. After Hurricane Fiona the tropics stayed active and the next major hurricane to effect land was Hurricane Ian.

Ian tracked over Cuba and then moved back over the very warm Gulf of Mexico ocean waters. With the Gulf of Mexico ocean waters in the mid-upper 80s; this caused Ian to become a very large and monster hurricane. Then very warm ocean waters were the fuel for Ian becoming so intense. There were no strong winds in the upper atmosphere to disrupt the development t of Ian.

Initially it looked as though Ian was going to make landfall over Tampa, Florida. As time went on the computer models started to shift the track of Ian farther south towards the southwest coast of Florida. Ian became a very intense hurricane with winds of 155 miles per hour making it a category 4 hurricane. Ian was only two miles per hour shy of being a category 5 hurricane which is the highest category in terms of hurricane intensity.

The center of hurricane Ian made landfall near Fort Myers at Cay Costa, Florida at 3:05 PM Wednesday September 28 as a category 4 hurricane. The extremely strong winds along with a storm surge of 12 feet plus caused extensive damage at Fort Myers beach and the southwest coast of Florida. Ian caused over 2 million power outages in Florida. Parts of the bridge that connects the mainland of Florida to Sanibel Island was destroyed and washed away by the dangerous storm surge caused by the ocean. As a result, Sanibel Island is now separated from the mainland of Florida due to the damage done to the causeway. The causeway will take a long time to repair.

Also, it will take some time to rebuild

FOLIAGE: NEXT PAGE

THE DOCTOR IS IN!

Difficult Conditions

Dr. Pierre Ghassibi
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Greetings everyone.

This article here is perhaps another repetition of what I wrote before, but I hope to crystallize some vital points regarding hard to diagnose and treat conditions.

The acute day to day problems have defined diagnostic procedures and treatments: Ear infections, sinusitis, acute back pain, sprains, poison ivy, etc., are straightforward conditions that can usually be diagnosed and treated right away. Many Minute Clinics are popping here and there, and they do a good job. At any rate, many of these ailments can also go away on their own.

Persistent back pain, chronic migraine, depression, irritable bowel syndrome, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue, could have different causes. The cause is often hard to find, and treatment is not curative. If a specific cause is hidden, how can we remove it? However, Medicine is better at treating the killer diseases than those that slowly keep torturing us. We know what to do for a specific cancer, a broken bone, a pneumonia, but fibromyalgia eludes us. The Minute Clinics cannot deal with chronic diseases. This is the job of the Primary Care Provider with help from specialists. Since the causes of these chronic diseases are often hidden, since Medicine does not have a quick fix, we usually prescribe medications that numb the brain without hitting the cause. We prescribe lifestyle modalities because we do not possess any specific treatment. However, these non-pharmacologic approaches do help by increasing the happiness hormones and relaxing the muscles and the soul. Light clean eating, sharing time with friends, Tai chi or Qigong, music, avoiding toxic substances and toxic people, do contribute to "better being" if not to wellbeing.

To sum up, Tai chi and Qigong for these conditions, help more than pills, although pills may be needed too at times.

How many of us prescribe Tai Chi or Qigong? When I visited China, I saw hundreds of people meeting in a park to practice their Tai chi at 5 in the morning. It was always a beautiful sight.

Once I saw a procession of a hundred older people singing and dancing on the sidewalk in the evening. When I asked what it all was about, they answered that they do this once a month to celebrate being Elderly Chinese!

P. Ghassibi, MD
ghassibi@hotmail.com ◊

REPS. FROM PAGE 8

"We need representation that answers to the people, first and foremost."

Joe Finn, a law enforcement professional who recently capped off a 30-year career serving as the special agent in charge of the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General, is running to represent Massachusetts' realigned 14th Essex District.

When the North Andover resident and father of three wasn't busy performing his duties as the region's top law enforcement officer for the OIG, Finn was coaching town baseball and basketball teams and devoting his time giving back to his community.

Finn said he recently reached a point in his life where he felt a calling for working in public service.

"We live in turbulent times, as skyrocketing inflation continues to skyrocket, driving up prices, devaluing our wages, and wiping out people's savings,"Finn said. "Our communities are expanding at an unprecedented rate, making it more difficult than ever to deliver excellent services and raise our families."

"We need representation on Beacon Hill that understands the plight that everyday people are dealing with and is unafraid to stand up for their constituents."

Finn and his wife Nancy have lived in North Andover for 22 years. Nancy is a North Andover native.

Before launching his law enforcement career, Finn earned his bachelor's degree in business management from Assumption University and his MBA from Providence College.

Finn said he's confident his background as a special agent, where he was responsible for ensuring honesty and efficiency at various levels of government, will translate to quality representation in Beacon Hill's House of Representatives.

"I believe businesses and residents are dissatisfied with the status quo," Finn added. "We need representation that answers to the people, first and foremost."

Finn's priorities include focusing on reducing the tax burdens shouldered by hard-working families and small businesses, increasing the flow of state aid to local schools and town services, cutting back on reckless spending, fighting to keep communities safe by ensuring police and fire services have the necessary resources, and increasing affordable housing options for senior citizens and veterans.

"As your state representative on Beacon Hill, I promise to be unafraid to stand up for the needs of our families no matter what," Finn said. ◊

HERO: FROM PAGE 1

and sustain total hearing loss in his right ear. Always the fighter, Sal would not simply survive; he would thrive.

In 2016, Sal and his wife Dana created Battle Grounds Coffee Company, an award-winning roasting and café operation located in Haverhill, Newburyport, and Methuen. Battle Grounds Coffee was built on a foundation of service. Whether that manifested in providing clothing for veterans, school supplies for students, or a meeting place for local organizations, Sal and Dana built Battle Grounds as a resource for their communities.

And Sal isn't stopping there. With a resume like his, most people would be satisfied. But not this Navy SEAL. In April of this year, Sal DeFranco pulled papers to run for state senate in the Second Essex and Middlesex district of Massachusetts. The district includes part of Haverhill, Amesbury, Merrimac, part of North Andover, Andover, Tewksbury, and Wilmington.

When I asked why, Sal responded passionately, "there is a line in the SEAL creed. "In times of war or uncertainty, there is a special breed of warrior ready to answer our nation's call, a common man with uncommon desire to succeed…. I am that man." "We might not be at war, but I can assure you, these times are most definitely uncertain. And the uncertainty with our economy, our safety, and our children's education has people concerned."

DeFranco continued.

"Running a business in Massachusetts is no easy task," DeFranco remarked. "I've watched the legislature raise our taxes, impose more regulations, and make it harder for small businesses like mine to compete. So, I decided it was time to make a change."

DeFranco has spent much of the last seven months on the campaign trail, knocking on doors, listening to voters, and introducing himself to the people in his district.

"Families and businesses are hurting. Inflation is at an all-time high. Taxes keep going up. Massachusetts is becoming a place working people cannot afford, and I want to change that. We need a senator who will be willing to stand up for families, support our police, and make our communities safer and more prosperous places to live," DeFranco continued.

"I have the experience, the know-how, and the grit to get things done. That's why I'm running for the State Senate."

From his childhood in a single-parent home to the SEAL teams to running a business, Sal DeFranco is a "Hero in our midst." We thank Sal for his time and wish him the best in his campaign for the State Senate.

……

The Dracut American Legion asks all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington, DC! Veterans of all eras are asked to go to the American Legion's Web site www.legion.org and join the American Legion; our mission is to work with Congress, Veterans, and the Community, preserving our Veteran's Benefits for future generations.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the US Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history, and a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 25 years. If you know a World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com ◊

FOLIAGE: FROM PAGE 8

southwest Florida. Keep the people in Florida in your prayers! Hurricane Ian also caused over a foot of rain in Orlando Florida. Ian weakened as it moved across the state of Florida.

However, this was not the end of Ian. After moving over Florida Ian regained strength as he moved over the very warm Atlantic Ocean. Ian became a hurricane again. His next area where he made landfall was Georgetown, South Carolina as a Category 1 hurricane with 85 mile per hour winds. Ian made the landfall at 2:05 PM Friday September 30. This was Ian's 2nd US landfall. Flooding and power outages occurred in the Carolinas. Even though Ian was not as strong here compared to Florida keep the people in the Carolinas in your prayers as well. With High Pressure to our north this suppressed the remnant moisture (rain) from reaching areas north of the MA pike. The high pressure to our north caused dry air in the low and mid-levels of the atmosphere suppressed the rain to areas mainly south of the MA Pike.

Stay tuned to next month's article when we will recap the weather in October. Will there be more hurricanes? Very warm weather? Cold air outbreak?

Stay tuned to next month's article for the answers!

In the meantime, enjoy the fall season and stay safe! ◊

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Lawrence Mayor Brian DePena and Lawrence District "E" City Councilor Stephanie Infante recently visited the Robert Frost School and were greeted by a very excited group of Lawrence School kids.

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The staff of the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center in Lawrence were on hand last month to help feed the homeless at the TMF Family Dinner for the homeless at the Buckley Garage on Common Street in Lawrence. TMF (The Movement Family) feeds the homeless every Wednesday evenings from 9-11PM. TMF also gives out clothing and other amenities as well as offers counseling and detox services through various organizations who attend the Wednesday night events. Thank you to The Greater Lawrence Family Health Center for beeing so supportive of TMF's efforts.

Vaso Patsi Hatzigiannis D.M.D.

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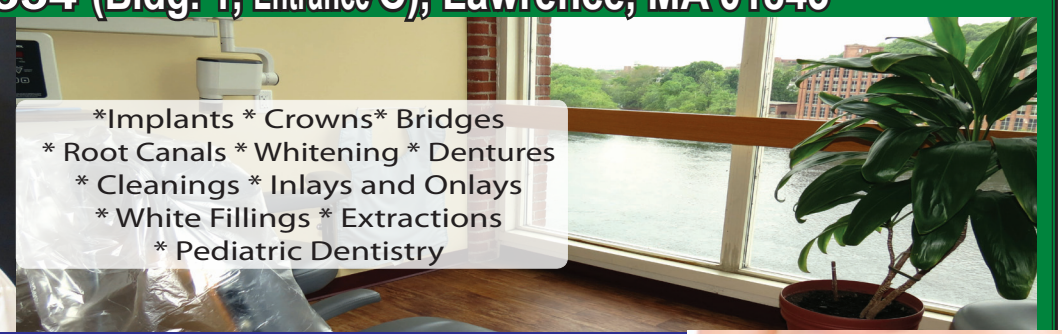
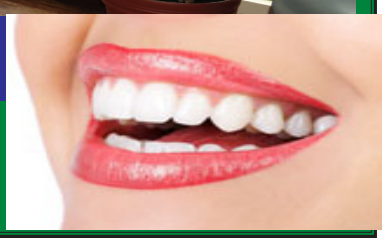


INVISALIGN BRACES!!



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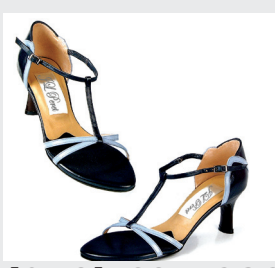

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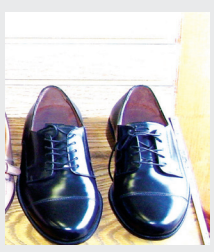

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TV TALK with BILL CUSHING

'Bad Sisters'

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

When it comes to murder, some things are best kept in the family.

The phrase, 'Keep it in the Family' never held more weight than it does in 'Bad Sisters,' AppleTV+'s outstanding new series that premiered on Aug. 19th.

John Paul "JP" Williams (Claes Bang, fresh off The Northman) is an objectively terrible person. They call him the Prick, and that's putting it nicely. He throws elbows at work, pokes at family members' wounds, spies on people and blackmails them. He's racist, homophobic, misogynistic—you name it, he hates it. "I think they dipped him in vinegar before they handed him over" at birth, his elderly mother muses. No one suffers more from his behavior than his wife, Grace (Sex Education's Anne-Marie Duff), a meek woman who absorbs constant physical and emotional abuse from JP.

Lucky for Grace, she has four fiercely devoted Irish sisters who'd go to great lengths to liberate her. They even discuss and fantasize about killing JP for Grace's sake. So, when JP dies under bizarre circumstances and his death is nonetheless ruled an accident, it doesn't seem unreasonable to wonder if the sisters may be responsible. 'Bad Sisters,' a wickedly funny, genuinely poignant series created by 'Catastrophe' actress Sharon Horgan, takes its time recounting what really happened.

As Grace's family gathers for the funeral, it quickly becomes clear that John Paul's death was probably not an accident, and her sisters seem to be hiding quite a lot of secrets. You see, each of the sisters has been wronged by JP over the years, and we are told those stories over the course of the 10 episodes. Across two timelines, one beginning six months before John Paul's death, the other immediately after, we learn of the many reasons people wanted the man dead and multiple bungled attempts to kill him.

However, it's to the show's credit that it almost doesn't matter who actually killed JP. What matters is the story of a family trying to save one of their own from years of abuse, and the lengths people will go to in order to keep each other safe. That the show also finds not just moments, but reasons to make its characters and viewers laugh is a testament to how well its writing team can balance a tone that lesser writers may have screwed up. Even if it'll be satisfying to learn exactly how JP dies, 'Bad Sisters' is less about the mystery and more about the relationships and how they get tangled into such an overwhelming knot along the way.

The writing on this series is among the best of the year, with some absolutely brilliant dialogue, and the cast is terrific. Boasting one of the best ensemble casts in recent memory, with strong performances across the board. Each actress has their moment to shine throughout the show. Claes Bang as JP plays his part perfectly, never once letting up on being the absolute worst person he can be. It surely takes a talented actor to make a character this repulsive

Now available to stream on Apple TV+, 'Bad Sisters' is an incredibly entertaining dark comedy wrapped in a whodunnit and it's a series that will leave viewers begging for more.

If you have any questions about TV, you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column.

Follow me on Twitter and Instagram @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion. ◊

No Condemnation!

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The people of the world love it when Christians fight with one another over sin! It is called Christian road kill. The people of the world love to confront us Christ followers by condemning other Christians for what they think is a sin. I have heard taught that sin is sin, that there are no categories of sin. I have also heard taught that there are different levels of sin, like lesser and greater. They use this verse of a conversation between Jesus and Pilate to prove their point which is found in John 19:11, "Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore, the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." NKJV. I remember my Roman Catholic days of being taught that there are venial sins and mortal sins meaning venial being the lesser, and the mortal sin being the greater. Whatever it is that you believe concerning sin, The Cross of Jesus Christ took care of the sin problem, small or great. The Bible says in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." NKJV. This verse tells us that we all are sinners and deserve death!!! But God, [Thank you, Jesus!!!] did not leave us in this state of sin and provided a way out through Jesus who provided the death that we could not provide for ourselves for our sins. Because of the Cross of Jesus Christ, we now have the gift of God, which is eternal life!

So, knowing what I know now, when I get confronted with this question of condemning others over sin, whether they are Christian or not, I respond by asking this question, why are you asking me to do something that God Himself was and still is, not willing to do? The Bible says in John 3:17, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." NKJV. So, if God is not condemning the world, why should I? There will be a time in the future when God will unleash His wrath, but for now, since we are in a grace period, God isn't condemning anyone now. The Bible goes on and says in 1 John 1:7, "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." NKJV. Cleansed from all sin means ALL SINS!!!

People accused the Apostle Paul of saying that since we are under Grace, we have a license to sin, that we can act and do anything we want to because of the New Covenant of Grace. This Grace is like a get-out-of-jail-free card. In Romans 6:1, we read, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? NKJV. Absolutely NOT!!! The Bible also says in 1 John 1:8-9, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." NKJV. Oh, this word confesses in verse 9 has caused so many problems among Christians. The Greek word used here for the word confess is, homologeo, 3670, meaning saying the same word, it is a compound word, homo, meaning same and logo, meaning word. In other words, it means to say or confess the same thing as God, who says your sins have been forgiven at the Cross!!! And in Ephesians, we read, Ephesians 1:7, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." NKJV. And again, in Ephesians 4:32, "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." NKJV. Then in Colossians1:14, "in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." NKJV. These verses are all in the past tense meaning God forgave you and me at the Cross of Jesus Christ where His blood was shed for our Redemption!!!

So, let's confess the same word as God, which is we are forgiven, the sin problem has been dealt with and is no more!!! I am not saying we no longer sin, what I am saying is that sin no longer has authority over us keeping us from being saved. Jesus took care of this with His death and the shedding of His blood at the Cross so now we no longer confess our sin to be saved but we now confess the savior from sin who is Jesus Christ and make him Lord of our lives!!! Now, therefore…. Romans 8:1, "So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus." NLT. Deal with it!!! I did not write the book!!! Quit fighting over sin and confess, say the same thing as God, we have been forgiven!!! STOP condemning yourselves and others!!!

Let's read together, Psalm 103:1-3, "Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, [sins]" NKJV.

So, what must I do to be saved, Romans 10:9, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." NKJV. Nothing about confessing sin, but confessing the Savior from sin, The Lord Jesus!!!

Please send all complaints to the Management!!!

God Bless you all, Peter Larocque
peterlarocque@hotmail.com ◊

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Essex North Shore Agricultural Technical School Receives $1.7M Skills Capital Grant

COURTESY WHAV.NET

Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School plans to modernize and expand its Culinary Arts and Animal Sciences instructional labs with a $1.7 million state grant.

The school, which combines the former Essex Agricultural and Technical High School and North Shore Technical High School, was among 14 high schools awarded a Skills Capital Grants. The Gov. Charlie Baker administration said the goal is to expand student enrollment in programs that provide career education.

"Since taking office, our administration has made significant investments through the Skills Capital Grant program to help more young people and adults gain the education, training and skills necessary for successful careers in rapidly growing industry sectors," said Baker.

Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School's Culinary Arts and Animal Sciences instructional labs involve more than 500 high school students and Career Technical Initiative adult students.

Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta added, "This round of Skills Capital Grants is funding a wide expansion of Career Technical Initiative programming which will help the unemployed and underemployed find meaningful work that supports themselves and their families."

Grant money was included in An Act Relative to Immediate COVID-19 Recovery Needs, passed by the legislature and signed by the governor, which included $100 million in state resources to provide capital improvement grants to vocational high schools and public schools operating career and technical education programs.

Best Western in Haverhill Closing to Make Way for New Hotel; At the Original Howard Johnson's

COURTESY WHAV.NET

It was one of the first new buildings in Haverhill to take advantage of the new Interstate 495 highway during the early 1960s, but it's going away.

Built as the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge on a relocated portion of Lowell Avenue, the now Best Western closes this month to make way for a modern hotel. In a statement, owner Giri Hotel Management said Best Western Merrimack Valley closes Oct. 23, for, what it called, "renovations."

"The hotel will reopen under a new brand, with expanded in-room amenities and room types… The property will reopen in 2023," according to the statement.

Haverhill Inspectional Service Director Richard MacDonald told WHAV Thursday, his department has been working with the company over the past two years as the plan developed.

"We have not seen a finalized plan. The owner has been very responsive working with us to get a final plan on a fast track," MacDonald said.

MacDonald said the back section of the hotel is already closed and some storm drainage work has been undertaken. The front section still houses families that used the building under a government program. In fact, while WHAV was at the property, a school bus stopped to drop off a young student.

The short part of the L section of Lowell Avenue was built to give the now-amputated street a terminus, connecting with Route 110, River Street. On its west side, the new motel and its sister Howard Johnson's Restaurant—both under orange roofs—were built. Across the street was the also-new Westgate Center strip shopping center. It featured Demoulas Supermarket, Grant's Department Store, Robert Hall Clothes and other, smaller businesses.

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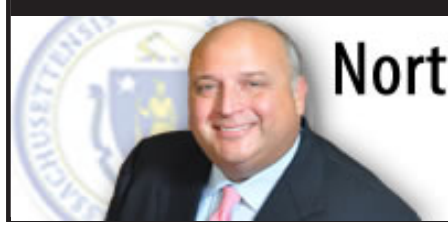
Property Sales, Foreclosures for SEPT., 2022 in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, price, address.)



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ANDOVER

Dhananjay Ghevde, Huy Nguyen & Van Le, $290,000, 4 Colonial Dr Unit A4-7

Maritza Valentin & Eduardo Carballo, Matthew Cocca, $276,000, 10 Washington Park Dr Unit 11

Fred G Arrigg Jr Revocable Tr & Fred G Arrigg Jr Tr, Brian Levis, $1,852,000, 8 Farnham Cir

Andover Bible Chapel Inc, St Parascheva Romanian Orthodox Church, $1,580,000, 264-266 Lowell St

Jeffrey & Kimberly Allen , Gregory & Jenna Carey, $1,475,000, 2 Harper Cir

Richard & Linda Kosinski, Keith & Sandra Best, $1,425,000, 17 Somerset Dr

Brian & Nutpravee Levis, David & Wesley Zoeller, $1,351,000, 2 Crenshaw Ln Unit 16-1

Aquarius Realty Tr & Andrew Shea Tr, Coventry Development Inc, $1,300,000, 2 Punchard Ave

363 Main Street Realty Tr & Leonard Getty Tr, Zhong Ren, $1,300,000, 363 North Main St

Tekchandani & Moorjani Family Tr & Rajesh Techandani Tr & Sangeeta Moorjani Tr, Jason & Elizabeth Harty, $1,250,000, 10 Ellsworth Rd

Christine & Robert Zdunczyk Jr., Erik & Brooke Lepke, $1,160,000, 1 Rennie Dr

Anthony Grise, Paula & Gary Kazangian, $1,100,000, 50 Elm St

Eileen Pappadopoulos, Cullen & Katherine Kulaga, $1,100,000, 7 Jenkins Rd

Josephine Guidoboni, Oriana Federico & Maria De La Motte, $1,050,000, 323 River Rd

John & Susan Newton , Karunesh Mahajan & Kanika Bisht, $977,000, 24 River St

Lynn Turchi & Kimberly Rabold, Hovhannes & Lisa Shamamian, $970,000, 4 Brierwood Cir

Marenzo Realty Inc, Nitin Valecha & Ankita Das, $950,000, 2 Napier Rd

John & Christine Schena , Rafael & Wendy Cordero, $940,000, 17 Maple Ave

Gideon Kejokaru & Ayelet Katz , James Hauer & Catherine Merritt-Hauer, $915,000, 28 William St

Alpha Development Corp, Briana Reed & Edwin Batista, $900,000, 15 Carriage Chase Rd

Karen & Edward Walsh Jr., Agim Allkanjari, $900,000, 83 Center St

Marguerite Erb Tr & 4 Sandalwood Lane Realty Tr, Jacques Moreira & Aline Prado-Moreira & Aline Moreira, $850,000, 4 Sandalwood Ln

Conte Third Street Realty Tr & Ann & Anthony Conte tr, Loretta Sala, $847,900, 236 Johnson St

133 Hidden Road Realty Tr & Richard Lux Tr & John Richard Lux Tr, Robert & Molly Vardaro, $840,000, 133 Hidden Rd

Elizabeth & Edward Williams Jr, Richard & Erin Taylor, $825,000, 155 Chestnut St

Nicholas & Pauline Letizio, Paula Burgos, $809,100, 52 Morton St

Inthearena LLC, Punam & Arkapravo Sarkar, $775,000, 55 Greenwood Rd

17 Noel Road Nominee Tr & Lori Bellignreri Tr, Lingyun Shao, $765,000, 17 Noel Rd

Hu/Wang Family Tr of 2017 & Fengjia Hu Tr & Weijin Wang Tr, George Ioan, $721,000, 188 River Rd

Thomas Legere, Troy & Julia Bigwood, $709,000, 49 Birch Rd

Richard & Erin Taylor, David & Melissa St Jean, $680,000, 10 Stirling St

JMT & JLR Family Tr & Linda Tavaras Tr, Giselle Ortega-Ramos, $650,000, 74 Haverhill St

AJ Anderson & Victoria R Anderson Revocable Living Tr of 2000 & Derrick Anderson Tr, Alexander & Colby Renton, $599,000, 134 High Plain Rd

Geoffrey & Sally Conway, Scott Conway & Barbara Santos, $550,000, 32 Shipman Rd

Roland Ahles, Menery Properties LLC, $520,000, 3 Moraine St

Misook Paik, Bertrand & Camille Ouellette, $510,000, 1 Powder Mill Sq Unit 107A

Skoshi Family Tr & Scott & Douglas Awley Tr, William & Martha Mccarthy, $432,500, 174 Haverhill St Unit 328

Maureen & Francis Faucher, Scotti Family Tr & George Scotti Jr Tr, $405,000, 1 Francis Dr Unit 202

Donna Lingley Est & Lawrence Lingley, Andover Minuteman LLC, $400,000, 1000 Spring Valley Dr Unit B

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Mary Jo Boxer, $337,500, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 406

Philp Cataldo, James & Stephanie Walsh, $310,000, 16 Balmoral St Unit 218

44 Lowell Owner LLC, Allegra Andover LLC, $68,889,270, 44 Lowell Junction Rd

Emma Wu, T&T Luck LLC, $2,525,000, 9 Ruggiero Way

Rob Meijers & Aslihan Sanal-Meijers, Daniel & Marie Adams, $1,500,000, 81 Sunset Rock Rd

Elizabeth F Goldstein Nominee Tr & Elizabeth Goldstein Tr , Chung & Maria Wong, $995,000, 8 Rutgers Rd

Lynne Deflorio & Lynne Kiley, Benjamin Carawan & Lauren Schuler, $955,000, 12 Stevens Cir

Elmer & Shirley Kountze, Paul Flynn & Belen Cadena-Flynn, $910,000, 15 Mohawk Rd

Jeffrey Smuk & Pamela Burgeson , James & Mary Jane Richards, $850,000, 3 Will O Way

George H Lentz Family Irrevocable Tr & Carole A Lentz Family Irrevocable Trust & George Lentz Jr Tr, Alexander & Hannah Keller, $770,000, 7 Brady Loop

Andrew & Erin Adams, Regan Szekely & Gabriella Liuzza, $587,500, 72 Princeton Ave

Paul & Carol Bellavance & Mario Capano, Pius Okeyo, $539,000, 3 Harvard Rd

Daniel Schneider & Leah Okimoto, Shane Lamprey, $409,900, 1100 Spring Valley Dr Unit B

TTFN Corp Tr & D P Realty Trust, Glen Lafferty & Julie Poley, $225,000, 14 Longwood Dr

LAWRENCE

Green Roof Realty Tr & Debra Yorke Tr, La Belle Maison LLC, $2,835,000, 398-402 Andover St

JF & A Investment Corp, 279 Park Management LLC, $1,600,000, 348,352-354 Haverhill St

Bradford Street LLC, Alternative Plaza LLC, $1,200,000, 86-88 Bradford St

La Belle Maison LLC, 152-154 Prospect St LLC, $905,000, 152-154 Prospect St

William Kent Jr , MIA Investment Properties LLC, $815,000, 51-55 Loring St

Wendy Guerrero & Samuel Barillas Jr & Wendy Nazario, Roland Ralac, $770,000, 149-151 Bennington St

Loum Chum, 210 Water St LLC, $760,000, 210-212 Water St

Yves & Chantal & Alain Blanchet, Robinson Carmona, $750,000, 93-95 Market St

Concepcion Cruz, German Gonzalez & Zenaida Rivas, $725,000, 807-809 Essex St

Sandra & Alexandra Paredes, Diani Gomez & Lisandra Duran, $700,000, 49 Phillips St

William Realty LLC, Hector Hiciano & Emmanuel Rodriguez, $680,000, 48-50 Olive Ave

Bethy Viera, Elio Guiterrez & Yosandiz Ortega, $640,000, 33 Tyler St

Leonard Eddy Sr & Cynthia Eddy, Victor Valle & Emmanuel Ocasio, $600,000, 63 Bigelow St

LMN Capital LLC, Jesus Sosa & Angela Tiburico, $580,000, 6-8 Custer St

Long Term Rentals LLC, Julian De Mercedes & Eliberto Vasquez, $546,000, 48 Washington St

Juan Valerio, Analdy Then & Selienette Hernandez, $540,000, 27 Abbott St

Lileisi Soto & Santa De Morales & Roberto Morales, Marcia & Diony Mendez, $535,000, 9 Orange Ave

Natalia & Cesar Hilton, Manauris Rosario-Burgos & Melissa Rosario, $535,000, 19 Cathedral Dr

Mark & Tracy Baillageron, Diana Farrell, $520,000, 12B Stevens St

Ana Burgos , Luz Perez, $515,000, 19 Wyman St

Michelle Gugliuzza & Stanley Sliwowsky, L Marshall Mccloskey, $500,000, 56 Chickering St

Dario Garcia & Vanessa Rodriguez & Fatima De Garcia, Carmen Quezada & Victor Martes, $490,000, 6 Pembroke Dr

Francisco Gonzalez & Francisco Gonzaelez, Antonio Zacarias & Eulalia Perez, $485,000, 99 Salem St

Valdez Enterprises LLC, Asheley Nival & Nelson Barrios, $475,000, 41 Pembroke Dr

Luis & Kenya Guerra, Bradley Scalfani & Courtney Coulombe, $465,000, 5 Shawsheen Rd

David Riccio, Roxana Rivadeneira & Elvis Garcia, $460,000, 26 Leroy Ave

Richard & Alba Bernabel, Sanderly Marte-Nunez & Sandra Genao, $460,000, 27 Bellevue St

Joldie Batista, Norberta & Luis Hernandez, $450,000, 63 Woodland St

Liriano Investment LLC, Doris Pujols, $450,000, 20 North Boylston St

Mary Crispo, Christian Gonzalez & Reodolfa Ventura-Gonzalez, $430,000, 17 Maurice Ave

Winwin Properties LLC, A&A Property Management LLC, $400,000, 17 Oregon Ave

Steven Desandis, Allan Cuscia, $365,000, 58-64 Railroad St

Gail R Kelley Living Tr & Gail Kelley Tr , Constitution Properties LLC, $355,000, 28-30 Magnolia St

Brenda Moran Est & Kathleen Blanchette, Makeover Pros LLC, $350,000, 77 South Bowdoin St

Kevin Grasso, Irene Espinal, $340,000, 66 Sylvester St Unit 1

US Bank Trust Na Tr, Alex Guevara, $320,000, 212 High St

Bassett Family Irrevocable Tr & Christine Ronca Tr & Jennifer Coppolino Tr , Vladimir Garcia, $300,000, 37 Lynn St Unit 1

Karen & Charles Putney, Cynthia & Adalida Garcia, $300,000, 191 Ferry St Unit 1B

Carney Family Revocable Tr & Edward Carney Tr, Nicaury & Siria Paniagua, $272,000, 70 Ames St Unit 70 A

Jyovani & Julio Joubert & Alicia Pepper, Andy Gomez & Angelimar Deliz, $231,000, 19 Bellevue St Unit 6

Ramon Perez Jr, Karen Duarte, $230,000, 312 Water St Unit 27

WY Investment Family Corp, Eladio Ortega, $220,000, 270 East Haverhill St Unit 8

Joya Gargano, Juan Valerio, $200,000, 242 Mount Vernon St Unit 3

Kashish & Krushi Shah, Willis Medina & Dilenia Acosta, $170,000, 24 Inman St Unit 6

Espa Realty LLC, Diverse Real Estate LLC, $152,500, 152-154 Bailey St

Benigno Espaillat, Diverse Real Estate LLC, $152,500, 148-150 Bailey St

Carolina Alonzo , Johanny Gomez , $145,000, 46 Amesbury St Unit 2A

Bartolo Garcia, Maria Castillo Demartinez, $125,000, 83 Walnut St

Tung Le, Daher Group Inc, $60,000, 0 Boston St

METHUEN

Toll MA Land III LP, Martin & Maria Gaspar Tr & 6 Chickadee Court Realty Tr, $804,903, 6 Chickadee Ct Unit 77

Toll MA Land III LP, Richard & Denise Cavalieri, $786,462, 33 Cardinal Rd Unit 165

Helio & Cindy Leal, Albidalia Vargas, $782,000, 6 Eagle Ln

Toll MA Land III LP, Brian & Shelly Wilson, $767,094, 4 Chickadee Ct Unit 78

Edward Raidy & Geraldine Silveira, Mario Dominguez, $750,000, 34 Copley Dr

Kenneth & Hana Deroche, Paul & Korlu Bulaya, $735,000, 29 Copley Dr

Shirley Tyler & Joyce Caruso, Frank Cava & Colleen Campbell, $735,000, 15 Phoebe St Unit 2

John & Joanne Byrnes, Yves Blanchet, $700,000, 214 Hampstead St

Orlando Vicente, Maria Mendez-Mancebo & Franciely & Karla Mendez, $675,000, 93 Camden St

Gaccione 2022 Tr & Glen & Patricia Gaccione Tr, MJK Family Tr & Robert & Joanne Demers Tr, $630,000, 62 Olympic Village Dr

Susan & Salvatore Blatti , Hugo Amparo & Dinorah Nolberto, $615,000, 5 Dexter St

Martin Family Realty Tr & Scott Martin Tr, 500 Jackson St LLC, $600,000, 500 Jackson St

Ramon Martinez & Carmen Ramos, Raynoli Tejeda, $600,000, 506 Howe St

Brittany & Renato Malta, Michelle Bibeau, $599,900, 131 Weybossett St

Maria Petralia Est & Susan Hubbard, Verenice & Ramon Fernandez, $565,000, 45-47 Adelaide Ave

Cheryl Hill, Rebecca Trinh, $565,000, 21 Observatory Rd

Rosa Lopez & Christopher Robinson, Raphael Rodriguez & Barbara Ramos, $550,000, 55 Oak St

Anna & Thomas & Michael & Kevin & Mark Sullivan, Lynn Turchi, $527,800, 45 Russell Farm Dr Unit 31

Anthony & Jeannette Ceccacci, Lauren Ogburn & Meredith Hichs, $490,000, 14 Wabon Cir

Kwilfred Beliveau Jr, Kristin & Roger Perkins, $462,000, 3 Garrison Cir

Jessica Gallant, Jose & Mercedes Valdez, $460,000, 18 Sandra Ln

Robert Frazier, David Velazquez & Maria Perez-Echeverria, $410,000, 119 Pleasant Valley St

Janet Fichera, Bouchra Khallane, $401,000, 14-16 May Ct Unit 14

Alfred & Kristin Tomaselli, Michael Pare, $375,000, 45 Washington St Unit B-8

Francis Rojas, Daury Villa, $350,000, 50 Larchwood Rd

AD Holdings LLC, Methuen Community Television Corp, $341,300, 20 Aegean Dr

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Barbara Bunker, Timothy Herman, $325,000, 95A North Lowell St
Monique Papplardo & Monique Pappalardo, Maria Valecillos, $265,000, 18A Constitution Way Unit A
Bellazar Properties LLC, RNL Capital Holding LLC, $250,000, 386 Merrimack St Unit 2C
Rebecca Trinh, Kayta Fondeur, $170,000, 50 Danbury Dr Unit 50-5
Bridget & Peter Macleod, Heavenly Investments VI LLC & Elaine & George Saragas & Jackson Realty Tr, $2,150,000, 143 Pleasant Valley St
10 Morgan Dr Realty Tr & Michael Giorato Tr, Carl Backman III, $890,000, 10 Morgan Dr
John & Robin Nardone , Antoine & Rose Loreus, $840,000, 2 Birch Hill Dr
Toll MA Land III LP, Jennifer Wightman, $788,707, 29 Cardinal Rd Unit 167
Toll MA Land III LP, Weidong Ji, $776,701, 135 Phoebe St Unit 71
Mark & Jo-anne Wilson, Virginie Assaf, $770,000, 15 Fairways Ln
Toll MA Land III LP, Susan A Carabott Revocable Tr of 2004 & Susan Carabott Tr, $764,514, 2 Chickadee Ct Unit 79
Frank Efezokhae & Vanja Numic, Deshawn Bunch, $760,000, 36 Marion St
Toll MA Land III LP, Maria Rojas, $750,995, 137 Phoebe St Unit 72
Sheldon & Marsha Rubin, Miguel & Carlos Reyes, $740,000, 6-8 Avon Ave
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Charles S Randone Family Irrevocable Tr & Anne L Randone Family Irrevocable Tr & Charles & Anne Randone Tr, Eric & Angela Law, $675,000, 27 Buswell Ave
James Ferguson & Gregory Gibson, Joseph Hallak & Carla Barrimo, $665,000, 26 Duston Dr
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26 Sea St Realty Tr & Patricia Sheehan Tr, Henry Ponciano & Manuel Del Rosario, $630,000, 26 Sea St
Lizamna & Awilda & Lisandra Alcantara, Erin Milovanovic & Oswald Diaz, $615,000, 95 Chippy Ln
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MJC Development Corp, Shantel Cruz, $571,000, 689 Jackson St
David Bohondoney Jr & Lynda M Bohondoney Irrevocable Tr & David & Lynda Bohondoney Tr, Thomas & Amy Lamson, $530,000, 9 Thayer St
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Corinth LLC, Monica Cabral, $490,000, 65 Larchwood Rd
Karen & German De La Cruz, Diameris Vasquez & Elvin Lantigua, $470,000, 20 Hampshire Cir
William Bellacini & Alpa Anitia, Emily & Tony Antonitus & Tena Antonitus-Lynch & James Voutiritsa, $469,900, 23 Oakmeadown Ln
Touria Slitni, Ana de Binet, $455,000, 37 Milk Ave
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VOTE NOV. 8TH

TO THE VOTERS OF LAWRENCE AND METHUEN I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING YOUR NEXT STATE REPRESENTATIVE!

LAWRENCE CITY COUNCILOR ESTELA REYES WITH ANNA SULLIVAN OF METHUEN VILLAGE AND HER SON FORMER LAWRENCE MAYOR MIKE SULLIVAN

ESTELA REYES

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT ESTELA REYES

YE GAY O'LE VALLEY: Jane Crow America

Dani B. Langevin
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

In 1868, the United States government issued the Fugitive Slave Acts. With the reversal of Roe v. Wade and the attack on women's rights, America is regressing to that era. Let's breakdown the Fugitive Slave Acts in comparison to what many states are doing when it comes to women's rights.

The Fugitive Slave Acts (FSA) were passed to placate the slave owners of the south. The regional split between the North and South was growing larger when it came to the question of slavery. New laws would not allow slave owners to move to new states because these new states did not allow slavery. Southerners saw this as an infringement on their right to own property. In my opinion, those who do not support a woman's right to choose, see abortion as an infringement on their right to own women and anything they produce. Many southerners/Christians wouldn't allow Black Americans autonomy and now they will not allow it for American women. Being a pregnant woman today smacks of reproductive slavery.

The FSA mandated that any runaway slave be returned to their owner. There are many states that are trying to make it illegal for a woman to leave their state where lifesaving medical treatment is illegal and travel to where it is not. Charges can be brought against them and anyone who helps them. Just like what would happen if a slave ran away, and someone helped them. There were no legal protections for anyone who escaped or helped an escaped enslaved person and now there may be none for women and those who help her receive necessary, life-saving, medical attention. I'm sure you heard of the young pregnant woman who was not allowed to terminate her pregnancy after finding out that her baby would have no head. As she said, she was being forced to, "…carry her baby to bury her baby." America! We can do better.

Another part of the FSA is that the fugitives had no legal right to defend themselves. They weren't allowed to testify on their behalf. Have you heard of the 16-year-old girl who does not have any legal guardians and is not allowed to get an abortion because she's not mature enough to make that decision? Seeing any similarities? Many free African Americans were returned to the South but, because they couldn't testify on their behalf, they could not explain that they were not enslaved, nor have they ever been enslaved and, therefore, they were then enslaved. That 16-year-old girl is basically being subjected to the same illawful enslavement. Let's not forget about the 10-year-old who was raped by a family member and wasn't believed when it was revealed she was pregnant. It's much like a free person being told they're not free when they most certainly are.

Citizens who assisted slaves or did not turn them in or help in their recapture when they could have, were fined, or jailed. In "trigger law" states, Citizens who help a woman get medical assistance can be fined or jailed or they will be rewarded for turning them in. It kind of reminds me of Nazi Germany when neighbors were peeking through keyholes and curtains, turning in their neighbors for possible subversive behavior. This is the America that is being sowed.

The Fugitive Slave Acts only had the white slave owner in mind and not the enslaved. The reversal of Roe v. Wade and the attack on women's reproductive rights only have men and the fetus (a non-citizen) in mind and not that of the woman inflicted. FSA ignored the humanity of the enslaved, as well as the compassion and empathy of those trying to help them gain independence, autonomy and the freedoms that our Constitution promises but wholly denies. Our founding document promises freedom and justice for all, but America has built itself on denying and depriving the majority of its citizens these rights over the profit of a few. Frederick Douglas summed it up best when he said, "For revolting barbarity and shameless hypocrisy, America reigns without a rival."

You cannot say that these are different cases. With the Fugitive Slave Acts, our government forced humans into slavery. They forced others into treating a whole culture of people as subhuman.

They were considered property to buy, sell, rape, beat and murder at the discretion of a white owner. The reversal of Roe v. Wade is forcing Americans to treat half of its citizens (women) into being property for the sole purpose of reproduction. Many Christians didn't care about the life of the enslaved and now, some don't care about the life of a pregnant woman. White slave owners were looking to maintain power and control and now certain religious factions are forcing women to give birth so they can keep power and control over them. This has nothing to do with saving lives and everything to do with complete indoctrination and power. ◊

REAL ESTATE: FROM PAGE 29

Shonelle Mckenzie, $750K, 330 Andover St

Christopher Buco & Sarah Adragna, Kevin Rewinski & Christina Palazzo, $725,000, 13 Morris St

Paul & Marguerite Camasso, Peter & Erin Eliopoulos, $652,176, 1689 Great Pond Rd

Sarah Harrington, Klaus Unterkofler & Carmen Pepicelli, $625,000, 177 Chadwick St

John & Julie Keefe, Laila Amin Tr & Bridge Crossing Tr, $442,000, 9-11 Fernwood St Unit 11

Edwin & Baldomera Tober , Ashley Leonard , $400,000, 180 Chickering Rd Unit 101C

Julie Hadley & Julie Anderson, Orjald Metaj, $345K, 14 Village Green Unit 10

Panorama Investment Group LLC, James Sullivan , $270,000, 2 Fernview Ave Unit 8

Kathleey Hearty & Jim Xia & Dianne Gabriel & Marylou Salois Est, Jessica Salois, $245,000, 8 Walker Rd Unit 8-2

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